

ZONDON'S INQUISITION



by
EFIM SHMAKOV



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By Efim Shmakov

Foreword

Zondon's Inquisition is a thrilling story, being the first book in the series called Zondon Alliance and the Order of the Inquisition.

Ten years after the war with the dead, Zondon had risen from ruins, like the mythical Phoenix bird. But some of the former pupils from Zondon's Academy became important people in Zondon. Dmitry, the former student, became the most powerful figure after Queen Abellin. Zondon needed extra magic help, to be able to keep its influence.

So Queen Abellin had sent eight tough fighters to London, so they could bring back as present the magic wand. These fighters are the famous Artborg with his two women Kate and Kelly, Hezzord and Mennon, Griff, Miel and Selen. But as soon as they cross the border to the west, enemy agents who want to get rid of them, attack them relentlessly. As they travel by road in 4WD cars, throughout Belarus, Poland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France and England, our heroes encounter numerous obstacles, which they overcome. Tragically some will lose their lives in these relentless fights. Finally they arrive in London, and they are presented with the magic wand as a gift to Queen Abellin.

While our heroes are on their way, Zondon has few more battles at home with its enemies. So Dmitry and his woman Lissa are dispatched on two occasions at the head of armies to fight in two battles. They win some and lose some. Dmitry became Zondon's most powerful figure. Although he submitted to Queen Abellin's authority, his popularity made him the most influential person.

Galita, Ditta, and Gamma, are sent on various battlegrounds, only to lose their lives at the end of a fierce battle. This is a highly exciting story, where the heroes are under constant threat. They have to stay one step ahead of their enemies.

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CHAPTER I

Moscow

Ten years have passed since then. Much has changed in Zondon. For instance, hardly had Dmitry, graduated from Zondon Academy, when he realized that he is a privileged man.

Very soon this news spread throughout the world. In addition, he decided to enter the St. Petersburg University of Magic after that. After finishing it, he became one of the most powerful wizards in the *magic world*, and despite the fact he was only twenty-four, he had mastered Elemental magic, Non-elemental magic, Zondon magic, as well as Necromancy. He had also met his lifelong sweetheart. She was a beautiful young woman with green eyes and chestnut-coloured hair. They got acquainted at the University and graduated from it in the same year. Her name was Lissa. Dmitry broke up with Galita long ago, right after finishing his studies at Zondon Academy. He never met her again; though neither did he meet his old friends. By the way, Neon and Leagun broke up with Ditta and Gamma too, but unlike Dmitry, they took it very hard because they haven't found new girlfriends yet. As for career, this sphere of their life turned out to be a success. The first thing they did after finishing Zondon Academy was to get a place in the Royal Regiment, where they were very quickly promoted to very high positions. Recently by Queen Abellin's edict, they were appointed ministers. They could be proud of themselves because of their upward mobility. But let's get back to Dmitry. By the way, last year both Queen Abellin and Dmitry were candidates in the elections for the Royal title. The woman was defeated in this tough election. Nonetheless, he abdicated the throne in her favour. Queen Abellin became once again queen, but from that moment she realized she wasn't the most powerful magician in the world. If she was indeed the symbol of Zondon, she would have to reckon with Dmitry and his great Attorand' Sword, which from now on belonged to him alone. Dmitry decided not to ascend to the Zondon's throne, since he believed he should become the ruler of the whole magic Russia, not only of Zondon. So he pledged to himself to get this position by all means, as from now on he was going to be a very respectable and famous wizard. As for Tuibe, Mennon and Gorr, in the long ten years they managed to rise to the title of academician, and they thanked their lucky stars for this. Meanwhile, *the Order of Inquisitions* was forever on bad terms with everyone. From now on, *Inquisitors' Self-defence club*, which until now was called the *Zondon Inquisition*" went over to *Zondon* and turned out to be a delusional ally. It consisted mainly of Inquisitors who lived in *Zondon*, and who went across to the Light side, and were unwilling to submit to un-lawful orders no more. As for Zondon, it was rebuilt. Therefore, the housing problem didn't affect the city any

more. In addition to this, it became even prettier than ever before. So, a great deal had happened here within the decade, and the city managed not only to completely recover, but also to win back the power it had before. However, it was not all-smooth sailing. A new Evil represented by *the Order of Elements* emerged. It consisted of another four reunified groups: *the Order of Fire*, *the Order of Water*, *the Order of Land* and *the Order of Air*, which due to the help of *the Order of Inquisitions* it rapidly became stronger and provoked a rebellion against *Zondon*, even though a while ago they were common people, and absolutely no one had paid any attention to them. Kate and Kelly became famous writers, and the two were in great demand. It was like on the day when they presented their first book, about past adventures. In the meantime, the young women were sitting in one of the bookshops in the *New Zondon*, signing their books.

"It's really great to be a star," said Kate as she signed a copy of her book.

"Right! Everyone admires you. They say how wonderful you are," agreed Kelly.

"The main thing is to choose the right topic for your writing. Then you'll definitely be a success," said Kate, who was a clever and pretty blonde, with blue eyes.

"For example, we've decided to write about our adventures. And we don't regret it," uttered Kelly, also a young woman with blond hair and blue eyes. They were very much alike in appearance. But they had completely different personalities. They perfectly complemented each other.

"Still a great deal has changed in these ten years," said Kate.

"That's true. Yesterday's *Zondon* and today's *Zondon* are two completely different castles," replied Kelly.

"It's impossible to count all those new people, who have recently settled here. *Zondon* has become ten times larger than it was before," said Kate.

"It's so good that there were no wars in the last decade. Therefore we had enough time to recover. Everyone got so scared of the powerful *Attorand's Sword*, so they decided not to attack us. For ten long years, we have been living in peace, almost as many years as a teenager is," laughed Kelly.

"Do you remember how we fought with the dead, long, long ago? A lot of water has flowed under the bridge, but no one has even heard about them. Anyway, how wonderful that we have a chance to live in quiet times," remarked Kate.

"I wouldn't be so sure about that. We had ten years of peace, but nowadays a conflict with *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* is brewing again. You can't guess how all this will end up," sighed Kelly.

The door of the bookshop opened. Artborg, Hezzord and Mennon, the old friends of our blondes, together with the guys they've travelled a long way, came in.

"Good news," began Artborg, a forty-five year old man in a dark coat, with regular features, green eyes and long black hair, carrying a sword with runes at his belt. He also knew the Magic of Fire.

"This week Dmitry and his new sweetheart Lissa are coming from St. Petersburg to see us. Nowadays he lectures at the *University of Magic*," continued necromancer Hezzord, a thirty-five year old man with blond uncut hair and brown eyes, and a staff in his hands, wearing light-coloured clothes. Even though he was

a necromancer, he wasn't a bad man. Anyway, it would be wrong to estimate a person and to decide if he is good or not, from that point of view.

"But that's not all. This time his is going to stay not for a day, as he did before, but for a whole week," added academician Mennon, a man with dark eyes, and his hair, which was long to his neck, had the same colour. He was older than his friends, around fifty-five, and he had a high position in Zondon. He also continued his work at the Zondon Academy as a teacher of martial arts, one of the main disciplines here, in Zondon.

"That's good news. I haven't seen him for quite a while, since Christmas. And now it's already the beginning of autumn. I miss him so much," admitted Kate.

"It's no surprise. You've been living together for four years. You became very attached to him. It doesn't matter that during the last six years you've met him only twice a year," said Kelly.

"Time goes very quickly, as fast as a bullet. Just a while ago, we were young women and had nothing to worry about. And now we are already thirty and should take care of ourselves," sighed Kate.

"It's great that we have already managed to experience a great deal of good things. We didn't waste our time," said Kelly.

"Anyway, you look as young as you were ten years ago," said Kate.

"Thanks, you look in good shape too," Kelly complimented her friend in response.

"You have been sitting here the whole day. Let's maybe go home. We feel bored without you. You have become so independent," noticed Artborg, the only one among our friends, whose partner was one of the young women.

"Leave them alone. Let them wrap up what they're doing with some autographs, and we'll go home together. Is half an hour enough for you?" asked Hezzord.

"Absolutely. I guess they'll manage," answered Mennon, instead of the two writers.

At last, the presentation was over. But that night they've organized an unforgettable party. It was in honour of such a momentous event, which was supposed to be visited by the Zondon's most famous people. According to tradition, it was to take place in the Southern Tower. Meanwhile, the writers and our friends were making their way through the crowd in the street, where brand-new Italian red sport cars were waiting for them. At last Kelly and Kate got into their vehicles, they fastened their seatbelts, and they went home like the wind. Artborg, Hezzord and Mennon also went back to their black jeep, which they used to reach the place. The first thing they decided to do, it was to catch up with the writers. It took them only five minutes to get from the bookshop to *Zondon House*, even though in the last five years, the city mushroomed and it became difficult to recognize. They've left their cars parked near the new *Zondon House*. The old one was eventually demolished, and a new one was built instead.

Our friends climbed up the stairs on a porch, which was decorated with great many columns and gryphons' sculptures. After that, they entered the Zondon House and found themselves in a huge lounge. Kate went up the marble stairs to the first floor. She quickly climbed up to the door of her flat and she opened it. Our friends were

blinded by the bright sunlight going through the colourful glass-stained art, of her hall's windows. They hanged their clothes on the golden hooks, then walked through a magnificent foyer and found themselves in Kate's living room. The new and the old flats of the pussycat were different as Heaven and Earth. This flat was a lot larger, better furnished, and, what is the most important, it was decorated to her liking.

The room was painted mainly in white. On the ceiling there was a giant chandelier incrustated with diamonds, a huge marble table was placed in the middle of the room. Our friends were sitting in large black armchairs at this table. Wonderful paintings were hanging everywhere, and the shelves were filled with leather-bound antique books.

"How do you like my new apartment," asked Kate and she pushed a red shiny button, after which a huge wall-size theatre emerged from the wall. She liked to ask this question, it was a great pleasure for her.

"Tell me! Will a duck swim? I don't understand how you could afford it. Artborg must have helped you, because to my mind, it's one of the best flats in Zondon, except for Queen Abellin's Royal apartments," said Hezzord evaluating Kate's room.

"Mind you, mine is not worse than yours. Let's go to my place, and I'll show it to you," answered Kelly.

"We have already been there, and we're proud to say that your apartment is also stylish," responded Mennon.

"It all seems superb to you, but do you know, how much money I had to spend in order to buy these two flats, and in addition, a third one for myself. Never before in my life had I spent so much money. If I continue this way, very soon I won't be I millionaire anymore, as I spend more than I earn," admitted Artborg.

"Right, I have bought just one such thing, but I haven't yet managed to settle my accounts. I've spent all the money that I've earned during my whole life. But you have purchased three," claimed Hezzord.

We all know that being a necromancer is hard, but I can't afford to spend my money at such speed," laughed Mennon.

"Look, who's talking? The flat you've bought is larger than mine. And you're still talking on and on, lavishing praise on Kate's and Kelly's ownership, you, slyboots," Artborg took off academician Mennon's secret work.

"I am supposed to. My status is higher. After all, I have bought just one flat. You have already acquired three," said Mennon.

By the way, has anyone already visited Tuibe's apartment? As for me, I have already been there. To tell you the truth, it's almost as cool as Queen Abellin's, since she's the Queen's second-in-command, as well as the second person in Zondon," Hezzord told everybody about Tuibe.

Our friends spent the whole days at Kate's flat, and later at night they rushed to the Southern Tower where the party in honour of Kate and Kelly's presentation was to take place. When our friends entered the Southern Tower the party was well under

way. They came just on time. The music calmed down a little bit. The fireworks rocketed into the air greeting our heroines.

“And here came our writers Kate and Kelly! We have all gathered here for their sake,” said loudly the presenter, followed by the outcries of welcome. After that, the music went back to its normal volume. The party continued with renewed vigour.

“We are at the centre of attention. I like it,” said Kate.

“Get used to such things. You start a new life,” pronounced Artborg.

“You know, it’s better than the previous party. For so long, we’ve been striving for it,” Kelly had her say.

“Perfect! I’m glad that you like the place,” said Hezzord while trying to get to the centre of the hall.

“The night is likely to be a long one. Take a look, how many people came here to congratulate you on the publication of your first book,” noticed Mennon.

The celebration was in progress. Very soon Queen Abellin and Tuibe appeared together with everything necessary for an unforgettable party.

“Never before have I felt so nice. This is the best day in my life,” admitted Kate.

“Anyway, life is great. And day-by-day I like it more and more,” added Kelly.

“It’s superb that Queen Abellin and Tuibe turned up here. Without them the party wouldn’t be so spectacular,” said Artborg.

“You’re right about the money. Without money, a celebration is not a celebration,” Hezzord agreed.

“Really, it’s hard to imagine Zondon without people like Queen Abellin and Tuibe. They are its reflection,” said Mennon.

Shortly after, the most popular magic music bands came to the scene, and greeted our writers before performing their music hits.

* * *

The next morning Queen Abellin and Tuibe were in their Royal Apartments getting ready to meet their close friends from the *Zondon Inquisition*, headed by Father Nokkuf. At the moment he didn’t need to hide since Nokkuf’s movement had strengthened a great deal. And after having shown who he really was, he gained new supporters as well as new land on the border with the Northern Inquisition, which earlier didn’t belong to *Zondon*.

“We are lucky to have such wonderful allies as the *Zondon Inquisition*,” breathed easily Queen Abellin, a beautiful woman with green eyes and blond hair.

“It’s not for nothing, that we have been investing in them for the last ten years. At last, we’ve managed to get rid of the *West Inquisition* office in Zondon and to make friends with the Zondon Inquisition. Such friends are what the doctor ordered,” continued Tuibe, the Queen’s second-in-command, who was very pretty woman, with black hair and green eyes, resembling those of a cat.

“I don’t think that today’s meeting is going to be like a diplomatic conversation, since never before had we talked to the *Zondon Inquisition* in such a manner. It

will probably look like a common quiet family party. We know each other for such a long-time,” uttered Queen Abellin.

“Well, the leaders of the *Zondon Inquisition* are indeed our very old acquaintances. I had known some of them even before you got the crown, and I became you deputy. The point is, that hardly had academician Gorr learned about this organization, when he decided to join it. He was heartily welcomed and given a high position, even though he is not an inquisitor,” Tuibe reminded everyone. No sooner had Queen Abellin and Tuibe jumped up the two huge seats, when a big wooden door opened and the Head of the *Zondon Inquisition*, father Nokkuf, his deputy father Ignatius, his assistant father Sergius, as well as the incumbent Patriarch of *Zondon’s Magic Church*, father Nobb, and of course the ever present academician Gorr.

“Welcome! Come in! Make yourself comfortable,” Queen Abellin invited them to get in, while setting straight her heavy crown.

“Oh, we can’t even take a step without you. How great it’s to have such nice friends,” began father Nokkuf. He was an old man dressed in expensive garments, and wearing gold and different precious stones. Previously he had occupied quite a high position in the Northern Inquisition.

“We need you too. *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* are now a single entity. So, go on, don’t make us wait. Tell us what happened,” said Tuibe while she looked for a seat.

“The *Northern Inquisition* is getting above itself. Now and then they even attack our trains, and they kill our people,” continued father Nobb, a fat priest with a long beard, who had been the head of a small church in Zondon, before he got his present post of Archbishop of the Magic Church.

“We know the situation. It’s rather complicated. If such things are happening in the North and in the West, I can’t even imagine what we can expect from the South and the East of Russia. The state of affairs got out of hand. They just do what they want,” said Queen Abellin.

“It’s no secret that the leaders of the Order of Inquisitions are setting their people against us, even though we are Inquisitors as well. They are stirring hatred. A war can start at any minute,” predicted father Ignatius, an old grey-haired Inquisitor, who had long ago worked in a small non-magic church near Moscow. He was also Leagun’s grandfather, Dmitry’s army mate.

“Father Nokkuf, it’s your turn to speak. You came from St. Petersburg. Maybe you have an associate in the *Northern Inquisition*, who can help us solve the problem,” said Tuibe.

“Father Nokkuf is the worst choice for the *Order of Inquisitions*. The others think how to get rid of him, since they consider him a betrayer. There’s nothing to discuss, Nokkuf broke all his ties to the *Northern Inquisition* long ago. What are you talking about?” said father Sergius, who was a fair-haired priest, and also Ignatius’ assistant. He worked from the very beginning with the head of the *Zondon Inquisition* instead of him being *the head*.

“As for the war, our spies working inside the *Northern Inquisition* report the same things,” said academician Gorr.

At first academician Gorr worked at *St. Petersburg University of Magic*. But then he was transferred to *Zondon Academy*, which was closer to his home. He was the oldest among those who were present in the room. No one knew exactly how old he was. For sure he had long ago turned one hundred.

“So what are we going to do? As far as I see, an increase in the number of soldiers on the trains won’t do any good. It will only result in the increase of the death toll. All we can do is to provide them with state-of-the-art equipment. We should also conceal well the time of our trains’ departure. Our enemies won’t know the location of our trains,” pondered Queen Abellin.

“What is more, it’s that after the annexation of the land on the border with the *Northern Inquisition*, these guys have begun to attack our roadblocks fairly often. I just can’t understand what for, have we annexed this land. There’s so much trouble with it,” Nokkuf began to speak about the second problem.

“I’ll try to discuss the issue with the *Northern Inquisition*. I believe we’ll manage to solve the problem. But until then our troops will have to run a little, in case a threat is imminent,” said Tuibe trying to retreat.

“Thanks for your help! By the way, at this moment in time, we do nothing but run, almost every day,” laughed Nobb.

“Well. I don’t want to back down any more. I don’t think it is all that damned funny. Tomorrow I’m going to make a diplomatic visit to St. Petersburg, in order to solve the problem. By the way, I’m not going to do it. I have disputes with the leaders of the *Order of Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. You’ll all go with me,” summed up Queen Abellin.

“Hey, Nokkuf, you come with us too. They won’t do any harm to you. Are you going to sit in Zondon until the end of time? Oh no, that won’t do,” finished Tuibe.

* * *

Meanwhile, at Kelly’s man Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon and Kate were together with Kelly, getting ready to meet Dmitry and his new American girlfriend Lissa, who were about to come. The guests didn’t keep them waiting, and they appeared larger than life.

Dmitry was a twenty-four year old man with green eyes, dark blond hair, wearing casual clothes, a long coat, with the great Attorand’ Sword at his belt. He had a big white wand behind his back. It was he who was the keeper of this *magic sword*, which had already saved Zondon many times. Lissa was a very beautiful young woman, about the same age as Dmitry, with thin European features. She had blue eyes and curly chestnut-coloured hair. She had such a name not because she had red hair, but because she was very cunning, as she used to say: cunning as a fox. “You’re welcome. To tell you the truth, I haven’t heard from you for ages,” said Artborg. His heart began to break as soon as he saw Lissa, who was very much like his late wife.

“You seem to do well here,” said Dmitry as he looked around. “A great deal has changed since I left this place.”

“We are so happy to see you. I missed you so much,” said Kate and she pounced on Dmitry with open arms.

“As you can see, Dmitry has decided to introduce me to the people he is indebted to. He wants to show me where and with whom he had spent his first days in Zondon,” said Lissa.

“So how do you like Zondon? Dmitry wrote to us that you have visited so many places in the world except for Zondon. By the way, did you imagine Zondon like you see it now?” asked Kelly.

“And how was your indiscretion? I’ve heard that there are some problems with it. Has everything already been fixed?” asked Hezzord and he put his newspaper aside.

“Yesterday the news reported that everything was hushed up. Everyone knows what is the *Order of Inquisitions* doing. They have been for quite a long time trying to gain control over this means of transportation. They want to make it harder for our army to relocate,” explained Mennon.

“Let’s have your meals. Or have we been cooking the whole morning for nothing?” said Artborg out of the blue. Old memories came up and he could do nothing but think about his first wife.

“We are OK, don’t worry,” said Dmitry arranging Attorand’ Sword.

“It’s quite a nice gadget, isn’t it,” said Kate, bearing Dmitry’s sword in mind, and she clapped herself on the leg.

“By the way, I have good news. We have recently got married,” reminded Lissa and showed a wedding ring on her forefinger. After that, everything went dark before Kate’s eyes. She realized that she had lost her good old friend Dmitry forever.

“Well done. Kelly paid no attention to her friend and she congratulated the couple. Kate loved Dmitry, together with whom she had experienced very much. And she began to feel even worse.

“The weather is fine today. Shall we all go out?” suggested Hezzord.

“Quite a good idea,” agreed Mennon and he deciding all by himself, for everyone else.

Our friends left Kate’s flat. They went outside, got into their sophisticated cars, and drove to Zondon Theatre, which was rebuilt after the war. The first thing they did, when they found themselves near the theatre, was to inspect the building from the outside, and they didn’t regret it.

Everything around them was, in the finest sense of the word, buried in greenness. Summerhouses offered a pleasant opportunity to hide from the sun and rain.

Flowerbeds were covered with exotic flowers. In a word, it was a very nice place.

Unluckily, our friends had to leave. They didn’t want to miss the concert.

They climbed up the stairs and they entered a white-stone building with a transparent contrasting ceiling decorated with patterns. It was made of multicoloured glass. It was shining differently depending on the time of the day.

The walls had a number of well-known paintings on them. These were ornamented with a multicoloured mosaic.

“I couldn’t even imagine that Zondon is such a big, and such a beautiful magic city. It’s not for nothing that the whole world is constantly talking about it,” admitted Lissa.

“That’s right. No scheduled time was set, and no efforts were spared to rebuild it. Oh, and you haven’t even seen the *Zondon Park* and *Queen Abellin’s Chambers*. Anyway, those are wonders of the world,” said Dmitry.

To tell you the truth, Kelly and Kate don’t know either, how much it cost us to rebuild the city. Since just after the war, unable to look at all the devastation, they’ve decided to flee abroad, and they came back only when Zondon was already rebuilt.

“Don’t point the finger at us. By the way, we have gone through the first and the second war with the dead. So don’t trouble us. I believe we have fulfilled fair and square our duty towards our country,” answered Kate.

“Even though we haven’t been here for almost ten years, we don’t regret it, since we have managed to see the whole world. And after a while, we are happy to get back here, and to enjoy looking at the restored Zondon.

Yes, these two wars with the dead cost us a lot of trouble. Thank you, Dmitry, for rescuing us. Hadn’t you done that, it would be unlikely that Zondon would still be here,” Hezzord thanked Dmitry.

“That’s nothing. I didn’t even have a clear understanding of what I was doing,” replied Dmitry.

“Anyway, you have defeated the dead in two successive wars. I can’t even imagine what to expect from you now, when you know you are the keeper of the magic sword,” Lissa supported her man.

“What a pity that a conflict with the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* is brewing. I hope we’ll manage to settle it peacefully and without victims. I am absolutely unwilling to sacrifice our people’s lives. Too many of them have already been killed,” reported Mennon.

After our friends bought the tickets and entered the hall of the theatre, they were once again stunned in amazement. Nonetheless, they took their places. Very soon the lights went off and a wonderful performance began.

“Nice hall, isn’t it? Lots of gilded work, wood decorations and multicoloured fabrics,” said Dmitry to his girlfriend.

“I like it too. Perhaps, I would like to stay here,” responded Lissa.

“The point is that ten years ago the theatre was totally destroyed. And we had to build it from scratch, at this very place. All that remained from the previous theatre is a couple of paintings and some musical instruments, which were taken out of it before the war broke out. So the building we are now sitting in, is completely different from the old one,” explained Artborg.

“Nice play, isn’t it,” Kate expressed her opinion of a good writer.

“Quite a good work, indeed. I like the place very much,” agreed Kelly.

To tell you the truth, Zondon had gone through a great deal of problems before it became such a success,” reminded Hezzord.

“First of all, Zondon is represented by its people, not by its walls. The value of this or that place should be estimated by the people who live in it, not by the number of skyscrapers,” said Mennon.

In a few hours the performance was over, and our happy friends made their way back.

“Why don’t we visit Zondon Park?” suggested Artborg on their way back.

“And I would propose to go to the cinema. Because if you want to see everything in Zondon Park, you should go there as early in the morning as possible,” persisted Dmitry.

“Let’s vote. Those who are in favour of going to the park, please raise your hands,” Hizzard solved the dispute.

In the end, it turned out that everyone, except for Dmitry and Kate, had chosen that option.

“I came here with a view to see the park. I’ve heard so much about it. I really want to take a look at it right now,” Lissa expressed her mind.

“Well, I see that our opinions vary. So we’ll divide into groups: the first one goes to the park, the others can do whatever they want,” summed up Mennon.

“Betrayer,” grumbled Kate to Kelly. “You shouldn’t have raised your hand. Then we would go to the cinema together.”

“We have just come out of the theatre so I, the same as Lissa, want to see the park,” said Kelly and she had turned her back to Kate.

Therefore, our friends were split. Artborg, Lissa, Kelly, Hezzord and Mennon went to the Park, whereas Kate and Dmitry went to the cinema. They left the car outside, and entered the Zondon Cinema, the largest and the best cinema in the whole magic world.

“I like this place too. Lissa and I are thinking of coming back to Zondon.

Everything is so new and so nice here. What is more, in this case we could see each other more often,” admitted Dmitry.

“Kelly and I came back not long ago. We were amazed at what we saw,” said Kate.

“That’s right, a great deal has changed during the last decade. But I believe that the main changes will take place in the future. I’m terrified to think about what we two have gone through, in order to be able just to be here in this cinema,” said Dmitry.

“Oh, really, we have experienced very much. Now have close ties to each other. I remember the time, when you were a fourteen-year-old lad. And now you’ve grown into a fine and toll young man,” said Kate.

“I can also remember you ten years ago. You have hardly changed. Maybe you’ve become even more beautiful,” said Dmitry.

“The time is passing by, and we cannot stop it. Who could imagine that you will eventually be the most powerful magician in the world, as well as the Keeper of Attorand’ Sword,” said Kate.

“And who could think of you becoming a real writer,” uttered Dmitry and bought some popcorn and soda. A bit later the two friends entered the hall and started watching the movie.

“We should see each other more often. I feel so good near you. I missed you very much,” said Kate having summoned up her courage.

“I care about you too,” said Dmitry and he looked into Kate’s eye. “To tell you the truth, I have always liked you.”

“And I have always caused you loss,” said Kate. And she put her head on Dmitry’s shoulder.

“I feel so good to be here with you. It would be great if the movie were never ending.

I feel there’s something about us. We seem to be suited for each other. I feel as though an invisible magnet attracts me to you. I love you,” said Dmitry being serious.

“I love you too. We two are really made for each other,” explained Kate, and in a moment they joined their lips in a kiss.

Shortly after, the movie was over, and our heroes went back home, unable to control their passion any longer. There was no time for proper parking. Hardly had they entered the flat, when they began to tear away each other’s clothes. Soon after that, the two were lying in bed, feeling incredibly good.

The old feelings broke free. They didn’t even fully realize what they have done. But it didn’t matter to them. This was bound to happen. At last, Kate and Dmitry were together again. As the song goes, what will be will be. Life must go on.

* * *

Neon and Leagun were in Zondon. They knew their old friend Dmitry was in town. They broke up with their ex-girlfriends Ditta and Gamma long ago, so the long-standing friendship of those who earlier used to be best mates went to pieces, and their ways have parted. Despite all these problems, Neon and Leagun have managed to become first-class fighters. They were at the moment sitting in Queen Abellin’s royal apartments, in comfortable armchairs, and watching TV, whereas Queen Abellin and Tuibe have left to another city, to make an official visit. Neon and Leagun were left in charge until Monday. The two guys would take care of the *Royal Palace* in the Queen’s absence.

“This is a nice job!” said the medium-sized man with dark hair, wearing glasses and uniform.

“The best is that we are paid for it. It’s cool indeed to be Queen Abellin’s trusted men,” continued the thin but athletic-looking man, quite tall (above average), fair-haired, in full uniform of the Royal Regiment.

“Have you heard that yesterday Dmitry came to Zondon. It caused such a sensation. It was believed that everyone would come to meet him,” said Neon lazing on the sofa and eating.

“It’s not a surprise. He is a star. He has been the centre of attention from the moment everyone learned he’s the keeper of the sword. There was no point for him in talking to us, his old friends,” said Leagun and he switched the channel.

“He’s the most powerful now. The law wasn’t written for him. We are mere mortals in his eyes,” said Neon.

“It doesn’t matter. To tell you the truth, we have also done well for ourselves. Once, it was beyond our wildest dreams, that some day we would command the Royal Army.

What is more, I am Defence Minister and you are Foreign Minister. I don’t know anyone in Zondon who sees Queen Abellin and Tuibe more often than we do. And, what is especially important is that they appreciate us,” said Leagun.

“We have achieved everything we could only dream of. I thank my lucky stars for it,” said Neon.

The two friends finished eating some grapes, and they left the hall. Soon after that, they found themselves in a restored Royal Winter Garden. This was Queen Abellin’s estate, and it was the largest and the most beautiful garden in the world.

“How beautiful it’s here! It’s awful to stay indoors the whole day. Since we can’t leave the house, let’s at least go for a walk in the garden. We will feel we’re in the open air, indeed,” uttered Neon.

“Are you joking? We’re in Queen Abellin’s Winter Garden! It’s a lot better that simply staying outdoors,” Leagun edified his friend.

“The time is passing by. Zondon is changing at the same time with us. Today’s city is a completely different one,” said Neon.

“All is superb. The only thing to worry about is that the war with the *Order of Inquisitions* is imminent. Anyway, everyone cares about it, not only me,” said Leagun.

“Do you consider peaceful settlement of the conflict to be impossible? Is the war inevitable?” asked Neon.

“To my mind, yes. By it’s not me who decides whether I am right or wrong. Time will show,” said Leagun.

“Let’s take a look at Queen Abellin’s library. It’s not far from here. The royal apartments are so huge, that even two days isn’t enough to see everything,” said Neon.

The two friends left the winter garden, passed by a number of halls and very soon found themselves in the royal library. The ceiling here was, just like in the rest of the halls, five metres high. Above all, the shelves were filled from top to bottom, with numerous books of all sorts. The men walked on the white carpet in the centre of the hall and continued with their conversation.

“What do you think is Queen Abellin’s opinion on this conflict between Zondon and the *Order of Inquisitions*?” asked Neon.

“She is greatly concerned about it. She believes the war is not worth even a single human life,” reminded Leagun.

“So she’s trying to solve the problem without using violence,” explained Neon.

“Try as she may but the head of the *Order of Inquisitions* is not very interested in it,” answered Leagun.

“We have nothing else to do but hope that the conflict will be resolved peacefully.

“I wouldn’t be so positive about it. The *Order of Inquisitions* is striving for war. They are ready to wage it, which means they will get it,” said Neon.

“Anyway, what will be will be. If they long for war, they will get it. By the way, we have already fully recovered, and we are ready to meet them face-to-face!” said Leagun.

The two heroes felt hungry again, and they walked to the dining room, where there was plenty of delicious food, cooked specially for them by Michelle (Queen Abellin’s butler) and some other Zondon chefs.

“How about the victims? I don’t find that starting a fight is a good solution,” Neon expressed his opinion.

“Well, all we can do is rely on Dmitry, and hope that this time he’ll take our side again, and help us notch up another victory. He is the most powerful in this *magic world*,” sighed Leagun.

“It’s all very well, but try as he may he can’t be in four places at the same time,” noticed Neon.

“Which means that we will have to rely on ourselves. And sooner or later someone will die,” continued Leagun.

* * *

When Kate and Dmitry woke up in the same bed, they were shocked at what they’ve done. They didn’t expect to let their passions run wild. And it was no use trying to make excuses.

“Oh no, what have we done! I love Lissa more than anything in the world. I don’t want to lose her,” Dmitry remembered suddenly.

“And I love Artborg, he is so dear to me,” said Kate, and she had shrugged her shoulders.

“Why have we given up to emotions and did it? By the way, Lissa and I, have just got married,” said Dmitry.

“If this had happened earlier, everything would be OK. That’s a great pity we did it at an inopportune time. Anyway, we can’t turn the clock back. What’s done can’t be undone. We can’t do nothing but accept it,” said Kate.

“I agree completely with you. Anyway, one day it was going to happen. We have to bow to the inevitable,” said Dmitry.

“We are familiar to each other. We have much in common. Our lives are so entwined. The old feelings have just broke free,” Kate had tried to explain.

“You are right. These days we hardly ever meet. We miss each other,” added Dmitry.

“This should never happen again. Only in this way can we make amends for it, towards our loved ones,” said Kate.

“What is more, I don’t want a living soul to find out what happened today,” said Dmitry.

“I was just going to say the same thing. You’ve read my mind. Let it be our secret,” said Kate.

“What shall we tell our sweethearts? Our answers should sound the same,” said Dmitry.

“It doesn’t matter. We should explain everything clearly. Otherwise these will be lost forever,” said Kate.

“You’re right, as usual. It a pity that these days we don’t see a lot of each other,” Dmitry burst out laughing.

“Let’s go to the kitchen and have some tea. Anyway, we have already crossed the line. It is what it is,” said Kate and she took the Dmitry’s hand.

The two heroes left the bedroom, walked through a number of rooms, and in a few moments got into the kitchen. Just like in the olden days, they enjoyed their tea sitting in front of each other.

“To tell you the truth, I miss the past a little bit,” said Kate and she took a cup.

“Those were the days! Even despite the fact that the war was never-ending! Much water had to flow under the bridge since then. Remember how the Coloured Spiders slipped into Zondon time after time, and the bickering that followed,” uttered Dmitry.

“Please, don’t do that. You drive me crazy,” said Kate.

“In fact, it’s you who changed the subject. And you are now protesting,” said Dmitry.

“Just relax, let’s have our tea in peace. Why can’t we recollect together the good old days?” said Kate.

“Another thing: I like your smile. That’s why I can sit with you here for ages,” said Dmitry.

“Stop it, you know. I don’t like flattery,” said Kate.

The door swung open. Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kelly and Lissa came in, bringing good news. Dmitry and Kate realized that they forgot to close the door. What a luck that they have finished up in time!

“Where on earth have you been? We have been looking for you throughout Zondon. And why have you switched off you mobile phones? A meeting is due to take place in the Board Room. And, by the way, you two should be present there,” Lissa began.

“Be sure, we will come. You can be on it, and thank you for the information,” thanked Kate.

“Something is wrong with you today. You’re all getting lost. At first we have been looking for Artborg and Lissa for half a day. Then we looked for Kate and Dmitry. I wonder what you have been doing together,” said Kelly, puzzled.

“I didn’t think I’d be invited to the meeting. It’s a great honour for me. I guess I’m not a local,” Dmitry pointed out.

“Nonsense! You’ve been living here longer than half of Zondon’s dwellers. Therefore it was decided to invite you two as well, you and Lissa, your wedded

wife,” pronounced Hezzord in a proud manner, which made Dmitry feel embarrassed.

“You’re a real Dagger (a Zondon’s warrior who is not an Inquisitor). Nothing important can happen without you,” added Mennon.

“We should no longer stay at home. We’re already late. It’s the time we hit the road,” Artborg summed up.

Our friends decided to follow these recommendations. They left home a bit earlier and reached their destination just on time. Unlike the rest of the buildings, the Board Room didn’t suffer much during the war. It was spared from the enemy attacks, and after its restoration it seemed it wasn’t an old building anymore, but a brand-new one.

“You look a bit sad today,” Dmitry took his place next to Lissa in the Board Room, and he tried to talk to her.

“No drama, just a busy schedule, you see. There’s so much to see and do,” Lissa merely answered.

“We have completely forgotten to tell you that since Queen Abellin and Tuibe are absent today, Mennon and I will be in charge of the conference,” warned Artborg.

“Could you please carry out without us today? As Queen Abellin’s deputy, I am playing the first fiddle in Zondon today. Whereas Artborg is doing duties for Tuibe,” said Mennon in all seriousness. In a minute the provisional leaders went out of sight.

“It’s a pity that I can’t go with you because I’m a necromancer. Necromancers aren’t fit for such a place. There’s an identifying mark on them,” grumbled Hezzord.

“Good luck, and enjoy the meeting,” Kate’s outcry followed Artborg and Mennon. Don’t worry. Our day will come. One-day, people will realize that necromancers are regular people, who simply use the magic of the night, which does not necessarily mean they are bad,” Kelly reassured him.

The clock chimed twelve. Mennon and Artborg climbed up the platform, and the meeting began.

* * *

In the main room of the *Zondon Inquisition* headquarters father Nokkuf, Nobb, Ignatius and Sergius were discussing what could they expect from the *Order of Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*, and how should they deal with their close friends from Zondon.

“I am greatly concerned about the fact that we have broken off our relationship with the White Unicorns, Sea Dragons, Spiders, and also with Phoenixes, the Hermit Country and the Necromancer City,” said father Nokkuf , the head of the Zondon Inquisition.

“Undoubtedly, a union with Zondon is good, and we should remember that they have in the literal sense helped us rise the *Zondon Inquisition* from the ashes. Without them we wouldn’t be able to scale these heights. As our ancestors used to

say, the union with righteous people can help us reach the sky. We should all get united in order to do it,” Nobb reminded everyone.

“The problem is that after the Second War with the dead, the rest of the magic nations have resented Queen Abellin, and even today they are not on speaking terms with us. And we can’t change anything, since it would be a betrayal. We’re not up to such a deed,” continued Ignatius, Leagun’s grandfather.

“All you say is right. A union with the righteous nations would do us only good. The problem is how to put it into practice,” said Sergius, who was Ignatius’ assistant.

“You’re right as usual. If we unite with Zondon, we will be in minority. If we take a look only at the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*, we’ll see that they consist of four parts each,” Gorr reminded everyone.

“It all sounds very rational. But I am not going to betray Zondon,” said the Head of the *Zondon Inquisition* father Nokkuf. And the subject was exhausted.

“And remember that our former allies are not monsters. And if we you do our best to improve the mutual cooperation, they will definitely help us,” Nobb reassured everyone.

“But if they don’t do it, they won’t be our allies. So we ought to start looking for new ones straight away. However, our choice is limited. Either you have allies, or you don’t. They can’t be found so easily,” concluded Ignatius.

“It would be nice if we could involve some other magic countries into resolving the conflict. Then we would have a chance to win,” thought Sergius.

“It wouldn’t be bad at all, if we succeeded in doing so,” said academician Gorr.

“By the way, how did you find yesterday’s conference? It was headed by Mennon and Artborg,” said Nokkuf.

“It was a high-level meeting. We have solved so many problems, that you can name these two guys to a new post right now,” Nokkuf began to laugh.

“I wouldn’t be so sure about that. I am still worried about the main question. The threat is coming from the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” Ignatius started to criticize.

“I absolutely agree with father Ignatius. The way things are now it makes the war inevitable. I believe we can’t turn a blind eye to the problem. By the way, the conflict has been brewing for quite some time. I’m afraid that we won’t be able to settle it in a blink of an eye,” Sergius expressed his opinion.

“Despite the fact that the *Order of Inquisitions* is keen on us, we should be on the alert. We have managed to separate from them, and when we will be united with Zondon, we can notch up a victory. The problem is that they have breathed new life into the *Order of Elements*, a union of four people inhabiting four different regions. That’s the scariest of all,” Gorr touched their nerves.

“Had the Order of Inquisitions known earlier, that I would present them to everyone in their true colours, I can’t even imagine, what they could do to me. Even now they hate me more than anybody else in the world. And I am terrified at the thought. What are they going to do to me, if they capture me,” Nokkuf shed a few tears.

“What a mischief we have done! We are now subject of discussion, even in the most remote parts of the magic world. I am frightened to think what will happen to us in the future. What could a union with Zondon lead us to?” said Nobb.

“It sounds and looks great. But we are jeopardizing the lives of many people. We, unlike the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order Of Elements*, which are a group of mean men, we just can’t risk our necks so easily. I have a grandson. I feel pity for young people like him,” said Ignatius.

“We should be very cautious in case of a war. Ideally we ought to prevent it from breaking out. A war can’t do us any good. All it can result in, are numerous deaths,” Sergius talked reason.

“All you are talking about is right. But you don’t pay enough attention to my words. We should concentrate our efforts on setting the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order Of Elements* by force, and gaining from the latter. If we succeed, the victory will be within our grasps. Then everyone will realize that our worst enemies have cooked a goose for themselves, and Zondon’s good name will be redeemed,” explained Gorr in detail.

As soon as Artborg, Hezzord and Mennen entered the hall, the inquisitors changed the tune. Father Nokkuf, the Head of the *Zondon Inquisition*,” broke the silence and invited them to sit down at the table.

“You are welcome! We are glad to see you. Make yourselves comfortable, and feel at home. By the way, you are still in Zondon,” said father Nokkuf.

“Thank you for being so hospitable, but we are here just to talk to you, our good old friends,” said Artborg.

“We would be happy to answer any of your question,” Nobb smiled and positioned himself cosily in his armchair.

“Let’s get back to the important matters. We are as well concerned about the situation with the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order Of Elements*. Yesterday we didn’t manage to grasp the matter clearly. That is why we are here,” explained Hezzord.

“We have also been discussing the issue. We arrived at the conclusion that if we manage to set the *Order of Inquisitions* against the *Order of Elements*, we will have a chance to win,” uttered Ignatius.

“The idea is undoubtedly fine. But it’s very hard to carry out in practice. I am afraid, we ourselves might eventually be put at odds with each other,” added Mennon.

We are now discussing the plan. You will be the first to see it as soon as it’s finished. As for the union of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition*, never in a million years will this manage to make mischief between us,” promised Sergius.

“I am afraid you underestimate those guys from the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order Of Elements*. They are capable of doing almost anything. We have been fighting them for few centuries. Nevertheless, they keep on blooming,” Gorr pointed out.

“It’s no surprise since the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order Of Elements* are headed by the most talented crooks and enslavers,” noticed Nokkuf.

“I guess we have changed the subject. Are you already doubtful about the success of the deal?” asked Artborg.

“Beyond any doubt, we’ll have a plan. But much longer time is needed to carry it out in practice. Therefore, we should get ready to a long-term and stubborn fight. Although the problem is likely to be solved quickly,” said Nobb.

“Do you mean *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* are rivals worthy of our blades? Is it unlikely that we shall win in the close run?” asked Hezzord.

“No, but the *Zondon Inquisition* is not going to sacrifice its people, unless we are sure to win. So we won’t be the first to attack,” Ignatius flatly refused the idea of using the abovementioned method of fighting.

“Anyway, *the Order of Inquisitions* is rather strong. They can besiege us as long as they wish, until we starve to death. This is what your refusal can result in,” Mennon made hay from Ignatius’ words.

“But still, I am under the protection of my walls. And I am not going to attack the numerous castles of our enemies having only Zondon as ally. That’s madness. They will trample on us,” Sergius didn’t change his mind.

“The truth is revealed in this discussion. I feel that something big will happen not before long, and it will turn the world upside down,” said Gorr looking around at everyone present.

“You’re right. Why are you all trembling? You’re a strong nation, capable of protecting itself. If anyone attacks us, he will get in trouble,” said the head of Zondon, father Nokkuf. He agreed with Mennon, Artborg and Hezzord’s opinion.

“It’s about time we started acting. We should stand our ground as long as possible,” Artborg nodded to Nokkuf in consideration for his support.

“The main point is that we have enough money to recruit a magic army,” added Nobb.

“Let them come and take us! We will show them what we are made of,” said Hezzord and he knocked his staff on the floor.

“If I remember it right, someone is always attacking us. At first it was the dead, now the Inquisition. Who’s next?” uttered Ignatius.

“Anyway, we have no choice in this matter. Either we win, or they do,” sighed Mennon.

It would be great to have another peaceful time in our life. Unluckily, the war seems to be inevitable,” told Sergius.

“Too many people are eager to destroy us. We have to fight back,” slipped out from Gorr’s lips.

“And what shall we do, if our rivals cut up our economy from the inside?” asked the head of the Zondon Inquisition, father Nokkuf.

“First of all, we ought not to make it hard for ourselves. And only after that, we start fighting them,” explained Artborg.

“The economy of our countries needs thorough watching and care. Otherwise they will definitely try to wreck it,” Nokkuf continued.

“A war is a non-stop struggle. We won’t suffer much, if we make an attempt to damage their economy too,” thought loudly Hezzord.

“It turns out that we have a chance to win. That’s a pleasant fact,” Ignatius sized up the situation.

“Everybody stands a chance, but no one can say for sure what it may lead to,” Mennon corrected Ignatius.

“First of all, we can lose too many people. And that will weaken Zondon,” noticed Sergius.

“As long as we care about our people, we will have to make an effort,” Gorr summed up.

* * *

Galita, Ditta and Gamma who have also come to Zondon, were walking along the new park. They knew for sure that Dmitry was in the city, and that Neon and Leagun haven’t even left the city for quite a long time. But in spite of everything, they were on friendly terms no more.

“What a nice place! I remember that we used to spend lots of time here, when we were students. I love Zondon Park. Every time I come here, something new comes to light,” recollected Galita, a slim red-haired young woman, riding a white horse, accompanied by her friends riding on horses.

What is our next destination?” asked Ditta, a good-looking blonde, while overtaking Galita.

“We haven’t been riding for ages. It would be superb to ride the horses beyond this park. What a pity that the horses aren’t ours,” said Gamma, a graceful dark-haired young woman.

“Why don’t we ride on a merry-go-round? I feel a pleasant dizziness for a long time after that.

OK. Let’s go. There’s so much to see and to do around here. It’s rather difficult to make a choice. Zondon Park is one of the largest in the magic world,” said Gamma.

A huge amusement park opened before the young women’s eyes. After the carrousel had stopped, the young women got in and they fastened their safety belts. “Recently we have fought many battles. We also have visited a number of countries,” Galita started a new subject. Meanwhile, the round robin was speeding up.

“Hardly had we finished *Zondon Academy* when we left the half-rebuilt Zondon and came back only six years later,” Ditta continued speaking.

“And how many new people we have met during those six years. The world is not limited to a single country, even though ours it’s the largest of them all,” noticed Gamma.

“There’re so many curious things in this world. And the more you can see, the better it is.

Remember, how we were forced to move from one part of the world to another? We moved from Europe to North America, then to Africa, after that to Asia, and then to South America, and even to Oceania. We've come back home only after we've been to all those places," said Ditta.

"Right, we have lots to remember. Anyway you work it out. We've left our home for six years," continued Gamma.

They had rides on all the nearby merry-go-rounds, until they were dizzy. So the young women decided to leave. They walked unsteadily to their horses, which had been grinding wheat with their teeth all that time.

"How do you feel about it? It was quite a nice ride, wasn't it?" Galita asked her friends.

"The new Zondon Park is even better than the previous one. I'd stay here with pleasure for a bit longer," uttered Ditta.

"There's an exhibition of the best Zondon artists not far from here. Shall we drop in?" suggested Gamma.

The young women mounted the hired horses, and they rode to the exhibition, which they had just been talking about. They remained on the backs of the animals, and from above they examined the paintings of the exhibition, which was held in the open air.

The young women's hearts palpitated with excitement. Finally, one painting shocked them. It was a relatively new one. It depicted the latest war, and which had dead people painted on it.

The young women, though they were very young at the time they saw that war with their own eyes. Thus, the young women were greatly impressed by this particular piece of art. Firstly, it was drawn to the last detail. Secondly, the author himself had participated in that fight. The young women had seen a number of such paintings before, but these could not even be compared to this painting.

"Do you feel the same when you see this painting?" asked Galita.

"Yes, we are worried as well about the rising conflict between *Zondon* and *the Order of Inquisitions*. I feel it in my bones. The impending war will bring lots of losses," Ditta described the situation.

"*The Order of Inquisitions* wants us to betray our best friends, the leaders of the *Zondon's Inquisition*, which would deprive us of our power. But we won't do that. Better let the nature of things take its course," added Gamma.

"By the way, do you remember that rascal Abbot who was dismissed from his position as an independent chief of the *West Inquisition*, which suddenly became *the Zondon's Inquisition*?" said Ditta

"Despite all these problems, that rascal found another occupation. He became second deputy of father Nokkuf, the Head of *the Zondon Inquisition*," said Gamma.

"I guess Abbot holds some precious information, as long as they've decided to keep him. It's not a secret, what a mean person he is. This lunatic is suspected of a number of murder cases. However, even though he holds a very high position, no

one discloses any secrets to him, so that he misses the olden days, when he was the boss. Now he's just a second deputy," said Galita.

"I guess I know the author of the painting personally, I believe I have even have his address," remembered Ditta.

"What are we waiting for? Let's visit him as soon as possible, and ask him about everything we want to find out," considered Gamma.

* * *

Day by day the conflict between *Zondon* and *the Order of Inquisitions* was getting fiercer. So Queen Abellin and Tuibe invited the best warriors Dmitry and Artborg, to Zondon, and suggested that they go to *West Inquisition* again, to see the leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions*, thus help them settle the conflict.

Meanwhile, Dmitry was getting ready to the abovementioned meeting in Kate's dining room, whereas Lissa was on her own accord helping him with it. Kate wasn't at home, as she had been at Artborg's since the previous day and had no intention to leave.

"Another task to perform, another problem to solve," sighed Dmitry.

I don't like at all these meetings with *the Order of Inquisitions*. Anything can happen there," confided Lissa.

"Let's hope things will come right, and we'll deal with the problem," said Dmitry.

"Promise me you'll be careful. Save yourself. No one can tell what might happen during the meeting," said Lissa

Finally, Dmitry was ready to see the leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions*. He asked Lissa to take him out. And like two doves they've opened the door, and they entered the hall where Artborg, Kate and Kelly had already been waiting for them. At last, they were all together again.

"Where on earth have you been? By the way, we have been waiting for five minutes," said Artborg, and he looked at his watch.

"We are not late. You've simply come into the hall ahead of the agreed time," said Lissa.

"We should at first go and see Queen Abellin. I don't think you ought to go with us. It would be better if the three of you go home and have a little sleep," Dmitry advised the young women.

"Good luck. I wish you'll have success," said Kate.

"No, you better give the inquisitors a hard time, so they would think twice before they even try to hurt Zondon," added Kate.

Shortly after Lissa, Kate and Kelly went out of sight. Dmitry and Artborg made their way to Queen Abellin.

"Queen Abellin's home has almost become ours," said Artborg as he adjusted the belt on his waist.

"We see her so often, that she's not a queen for us any more," added Dmitry.

"And I had known her even before she got the crown. I remember you ran for the king's position, but failed to get it," said Artborg.

The heroes passed by the entrance guards and came into the royal apartments. They had to go through numerous rooms before they saw Queen Abellin with a huge crown on her head, in a long white dress, and with shoes of the same colour, sitting on a golden throne.

“Hi, Artborg! Good afternoon, Dmitry. I am happy that you have accepted my invitation and you came to see me,” said Queen Abellin.

“Your Majesty, please don’t say that. It’s our privilege to serve the Queen,” Artborg reminded her coolly.

“The state of affairs came to a deadlock. It will be better if you represent Zondon at the conference,” added Queen Abellin.

“It’s quite a wise move, Your Majesty, to send people who are not taking sides, like us, in order to stop the escalation of the conflict,” Dmitry pointed out.

“I have something to give you,” said Queen Abellin and she stood up, approached a cabinet on her right hand-side, and she took out a large roll of documents.

“What’s that, Your Majesty?” asked Artborg and he came closer to Queen Abellin.

“A detailed updated plan of the *West Inquisition*’s castle. I guess it might be useful,” explained Queen Abellin.

Finally, Artborg and Dmitry left Queen Abellin’s apartments, got into their jeep, which was parked near the exit, and they rushed out of Zondon in order to break into the *West Inquisition*’s castle, a place somewhere near Smolensk.

Hardly had Zondon dipped below the horizon, when in a moment Dmitry, Artborg and their car arrived at their point of destination. Shortly after that, they saw the huge beautiful castle of the *West Inquisition*. It was similar to Zondon, but the walls were made of red brick.

“Where are you going?” asked the senior guard in a haughtily manner at the moment Artborg’s new jeep had come to a halt near the checkpoint.

“We have come on behalf of father Trey. Here are all the necessary documents,” said Artborg and he showed him the papers.

“Well, get in. You there, open the gate!” shouted the senior guard.

“Well, that’s it,” added Dmitry watching the gate go up slowly.

As soon as the gate was fully open Artborg pushed on the accelerator, and he drove the car into the *West Inquisition*’s castle. But very soon Artborg had to stop again. This time he stopped the car in a small patio, where father Trey’s assistant was impatiently waiting for them, waving his hands at full tilt. Dmitry and Artborg approached their man, and he escorted them through the entire castle to see the leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions*. Like other inquisitions, *West Inquisition* was very scary from the outside. But from the inside it looked completely different. It was a very peaceful place, except for few paintings with inquisitors torturing their victims. There were slogans against Zondon and its allies, printed on quality paper, and framed in huge frames, which were a lot larger than the printed slogans. Father Trey’s assistant chose the longest route, so that Dmitry and Artborg spent half an hour running up and down the castle of the *West Inquisition*. That’s why they entered the Conference Room when the meeting between *Zondon* and *the Order of Inquisitions* was about to begin. Artborg and Dmitry’s guide vanished in few

seconds, and they never saw him again. Father Trey, the head of the *West Inquisition*, was an ugly, thin, round-shouldered man. He walked in, together with the head of the *South Inquisition*, a young southerner named father Azar. Father Glurt, who was fat as a pig, also accompanied Father Trey. He was the head of the *East Inquisition*. Following them was father Flurt, head of the *North Inquisition*, who was fatter than the others.

The representatives of *Zondon* and the *Order of Inquisitions* shook hands, sat down at the negotiating table and started to discuss the future of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

We're not satisfied with your position on the *Zondon Inquisition*," said father Trey, the head of the *West Inquisition* and one of the toughest people in the magic world, as he started the talks.

"We believe you are harbouring criminals, who worked for the inquisition, and who should be brought to justice to the last man," continued father Flurt, the head of the *North Inquisition*.

"We also know that you support these monsters by all means, and thus you discredit the fragile friendship between our nations. We are worried about that," noticed Azar, the Head of *South Inquisition*.

"You'll have to choose one or the other. Either you are on friendly terms with us, or you are friends with the *Zondon Inquisition*. We hope you will make the right decision, and root out all the leaders of the rejected movements. Otherwise, we will have to handle this matter with violence," threatened Glurt, the Head of *East Inquisition*.

"Why are you being so rude? You shouldn't have talked like that to our friends. They have arrived at our place from far away. I am absolutely sure that these won't sour our relationship, and they will in the nearest time hand over all the leaders of the *Zondon Inquisition* to us," said Glurt.

"You know, we're not going to betray our best friends. What is done can't be undone, and let me point out that you've established the *Order of Elements*. And we don't demand that you root them out. What is more, is that if for some reason, we will one day lose our allies, it will be the day when our troops will be deployed to *Zondon*," uttered Artborg.

"Why is that so? We can guarantee that no one will touch you, if you hand over to us the leaders of the rejected movements," promised Flurt.

"Even if you get such an agreement at your disposal, you will continue with your pressure upon us," Dmitry pointed out.

"I can't understand what are we talking about. Either you hand over to us the *Zondon Inquisition*, and everything will be pretty well, or you and us will have to wage war," uttered Azar.

"Don't you think you're already putting pressure on us? Let me repeat once more. We will never betray our friends," said Artborg.

"It means that there will be a war, and an enormous bloodshed," Glurt summed up.

“It’s imminent. In the first case, we will at least have allies. In the other case, we will fight alone,” predicted Dmitry and he thought about the future of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

Father Trey looked around for the last time, and he began to talk to Zondon’s negotiators in a completely different style. He had no intention to cooperate with Zondon. He wanted to show off all his might.

“We are fed up with this situation. You’ll be hanged from your own flag! If you want war, you’ll definitely get it,” said father Trey.

“How much longer can you make fun of us? It’s against all our agreements,” said Flurt, who agreed with father Trey.

“I also feel that we won’t reach a compromise. To tell you the truth, we are tired of listening to your tirade,” slipped out from Artborg’s lips.

“How dare you speak to me in such a manner? Do you know that I’m the head of the *South Inquisition*,” said Azar, who lost his temper.

“If you continue this way, we’ll come head on. You’ll be destroyed,” Glurt warned our heroes.

“Go to hell! We’re no longer going to listen to crazy inquisitors, capable only of torturing and killing. From now on we will do as we think fit,” said Dmitry giving them a piece of his mind.

“We didn’t expect that result. From now on all our relationship is broken,” responded immediately father Trey.

“Do you realize what you are doing? I guess you don’t completely understand, what this can result in,” continued Flurt.

“We are fed up with being under your pressure and paying taxes to you. From now on we are free to do what we want, and you are free to do what you want,” explained Artborg.

“This is a poor attempt to intimidate us. You are penniless. We will swallow Zondon like a bird swallows a worm. You will beg for 25 cents, but no one will give you any,” sniffed Azar.

“We have had enough. Capture these rascals and ruffle their feathers. They have been pulling my leg for too long,” Glurt put his foot down. But then there was a real kicker, whom no one had anticipated.

“Too long is a long time. We’ll see who will ask forgiveness,” laughed Dmitry. All of a sudden the four leaders of the Inquisitions left in a hurry, and their destination was unknown. A multitude of look-alike inquisitors arrived, instead of the leaders who just left, and without even looking, they attacked Dmitry and Artborg. They were shooting towards the guests from all sides, mainly from air openings and first floor galleries. The tables, at which our heroes had been sitting, turned out to be armours, so they used magic in order to turn them over, hoping to take shelter behind them.

“We’re caught in a trap. They are using automatic weapons,” said Artborg and he took shelter behind the table.

“The point is that they are not afraid to strike their people downstairs,” said Dmitry calmly.

The guys from the *Order of Inquisitions* prepared properly to meet us, didn't they? I knew that it would be unusual today. And I was right," Artborg took a heavy pistol from his chest.

"Nice weapon, isn't it? It would be very handy. What a pity we can't sneak into a safe place. These buggers have blocked all the routes of escape," said Dmitry and he continued to shoot back bullets at his enemies, using magic.

Artborg put his head closer and closer to the floor and he went on shooting the attackers, but there were so many of them. Definitely we won't be able to stand his ground alone. Whereas Dmitry, the most powerful of all magicians, he had no problem. He was unwilling to shoot the inquisitors. He had the Attorand's Sword in one hand, and the priceless staff that he made it with his own hands in the other. He was killing the inquisitors one after the other. In turn, the inquisitors could not respond adequately.

"You could do better. Do you think that a hundred soldiers that you've brought here can get us? No way. Don't bother trying," shouted Dmitry.

You can't even shoot straight. There's not much to talk about," said Artborg, who got rid of a sharpshooter, and thus he supported Dmitry.

Artborg continued to shoot back and to move around at the same time. He didn't even need to take cover. There were so many enemies around him, that it was impossible to miss the target. Dmitry concentrated on the sharpshooters upstairs. After the inquisitors appeared, the doors were tightly shut, and also booby-trapped. However, the situation upstairs was a lot easier. They could consider themselves saved, provided that they could hold their ground.

"Imagine! We have to take care of these monsters. All they think of, is how to shoot us down," said Dmitry.

"I don't like the leaders of the *Order of Inquisitions* either. Only evil comes from them," said Artborg.

"I can't agree with you. Some of them are quite good guys. To tell you the truth, the majority of them are from the *West Inquisition*, where we are now. But their leader, father Trey is a man in a thousand, a rare and unsophisticated man. No one can dismiss him from his position. The shooters are the most tolerable guys of the *Order of Elements*. I would say that their chiefs are, as in the case of the *Order of Inquisition*, rather impersonators, and they also show bad behaviour," said Dmitry.

"No objections. Some time ago I used to study to be a shooter. I know a number of them. I bear no grudges to these guys. The only thing is that they are greatly oppressed by the *Order of Inquisitions* and they can't do anything. Everywhere you can find some rotten eggs, even in Zondon. Just think of Abbot!" said Artborg.

"Oh, really? I used to mingle with them too. I'm sure to say that there are plenty of nice people among them, even among the air magicians, water magicians and necromancers. Do you remember Istrok? He was the king of the necromancers. Zondon has received so much help from him. I am the first wizard in the world who mastered the magic of fire, air, water, necromancy, as well as Zondon magic, and many-many other skills," said Dmitry.

“But I still don’t understand. How did you manage to combine the magic of fire, air, and water, with necromancy? And the most interesting thing is this. Why didn’t it kill you, like it killed those before you, who had tried using all this magic skills?” asked Artborg.

“It’s all very simple. All these elements, as well as a number of others, can be found in our Universe. But some of those elements are found in compounds. And like the alchemists who lived centuries ago, and searched for the philosopher’s stone, so they could manufacture gold from other elements, I have found a method too. Therefore I’ve managed to combine the elements, which had been supposed to be incompatible. As a result, I have become the most powerful wizard in the world. I am also the handler of the Attorand’s Sword,” said Dmitry.

There it is! Very soon we’ll be at home. At last, I will be able to relax,” said Artborg.

Bit by bit the two friends were climbing up the stairs, putting pressure on their rivals. In few moments they eventually reached upstairs.

“It was really, quite a nice surprise victory for the brain,” said Dmitry and he picked up the fallen video camera, which was connected to the headquarters of *the Order of Inquisitions*, whose minders were sitting and watching what was going on. Dmitry started speaking his thoughts about this particular organization.

“Give me that camera,” said Artborg and he took the device from Dmitry’s hands, and he smashed it to the floor with all his might, so that the leaders of the Inquisition could not enjoy seeing them any more.

“That was a good idea. You see... Why should we toil while these stinkers are sitting in their cosy armchairs and looking at us on a huge TV screen?” said Dmitry and he tapped Artborg on his shoulder.

“Hey, do you have any bullets for a nine calibre gun? I am running out of cartridges. I have plenty of them at home, but I only have few with me,” said Artborg.

“Believe me, you don’t need these any more. We will be at home very soon. You can replenish your munitions there,” said Dmitry.

But then, an unforeseen event occurred. The door opened, and an entire group of selected fighters ran into the room. The two heroes were trapped. They couldn’t anticipate that there was another great ambush ahead.

“We’re in an awful mess. There’s no mistake about it. The Inquisitors prepared a nice surprise for us,” said Artborg in an absolutely different voice, while shooting back and taking cover behind a column.

“Keep your spirit high. It’s not as bad as it seems to be. We stand a chance to get away from here alive,” sighed Dmitry.

“It’s over. I’m running out of cartridges,” said Artborg and he borrowed Dmitry’s pistol.

“So what’s the problem? Use magic,” said Dmitry, who was puzzled.

“We ought to try to get out of here as soon as possible, while we are still alive. But I have no idea about how we can do it. The inquisitors blocked all our ways before

they ambushed us. Therefore we can't escape to Zondon. And we can't break through their blockade.

I have already tried to retreat, but without success. The inquisitors did their best. They reasoned out every detail," said Artborg.

"I'm afraid we won't hold out long. The bullets are flying right above our heads," said Dmitry. He had hardly said that, when one of the bullets cut his coat, hurt his elbow and blood dripped from his wound.

Even though Dmitry and Artborg were the most experienced magic fighters, they were unable to defeat a group of so many in such a short time. And on top of this, there was a close space around them, and they couldn't fully use their power, because the building could collapse and bury them under the ruins.

"If I don't get out of here, don't forget to take care of my women, Kate and Kelly," Artborg was the first to warn Dmitry, as the situation was getting tenser.

"If I am predestined to fall in action, tell Lissa I love her very much," Dmitry answered immediately.

"Everyone will die one day. But no one is willing to die right now," uttered Artborg.

I don't know if we manage to survive. But I have something to tell you. I'm afraid you won't be that happy about the news," Dmitry warned Artborg.

"Speak up! What's the matter? Who knows, maybe I won't even return home," said Artborg.

"You know, I got acquainted with Kate long time ago. We have much in common, and well, last week the old feelings broke free, and we had sex," said Dmitry.

"Are you joking?" laughed Artborg. "That's a bit too much. I'll never believe it."

"What are laughing at," asked Dmitry. "I don't think I have said something funny."

"And I had sex with your Lissa. She is very much like my first wife. So I couldn't resist the temptation."

"So, are we even? Who would have thought that such things would happen to us? To tell you the truth, I was so upset about it. But I just didn't know how to explain it to you," said Dmitry.

"It would be interesting to see the young women's faces when they learn the truth about it. Isn't it?"

I bet that they still feel guilty. They probably will think of a way to explain it to us," said Artborg.

These guys can't do anything to Queen Abellin. They simply try to release their anger, by hurting us, her supporters," said Dmitry.

"Who would have ever thought that we are so valuable for Zondon that *the Order of Inquisitions* is attempting to kill us," said Artborg.

Finally our two heroes managed to break through the magic obstruction, and together they got into their car, and drove to a safe place, not far from Zondon. Shortly after that, our two friends found themselves in Zondon climbing up the stairs to the first floor to Queen Abellin's apartments. They were going to report to Queen Abellin about what had happened to them during their visit to the *West Inquisition*.

“We won’t take much of Your Majesty’s time,” Artborg said to Queen Abellin, while Tuibe was perched on a leather armchair in the Royal Hall.

“Tell me. I may believe you. How was the meeting? I can see it in your eyes, that something has gone wrong,” said Queen Abellin.

Those rats have been putting pressure on us all the time. They wanted us to betray the leaders of *the Zondon Inquisition*, and threatened that otherwise they will deploy their troops to Zondon. But we didn’t follow their orders. That’s why they set a trap for us,” said Artborg.

“I’ve expected such things from those monsters,” noticed Tuibe.

“We were fighting a large group of soldiers, and we were lucky to escape,” added Artborg.

“What is more, Artborg was wounded, but never mind, it’s just a scratch. The bullet has only touched his skin,” explained Dmitry.

“Show me your wound. I want to examine it,” Queen Abellin asked in a polite voice.

“While Artborg was taking off his coat, a small bottle with dark liquid, appeared in Queen Abellin’s hands in a magic manner. A few drops of the liquid were enough, and the wound healed completely in a few minutes.

“That’s better,” said Queen Abellin. And the bottle with the black liquid vanished as unexpectedly as it appeared.

“So, it means that your conversation with the leaders of *the Order of Inquisition* wasn’t a successful one. Well, we’ll have to assemble our troops, and repeat the negotiations. Never mind. We should solve this problem anyway,” Tuibe expressed her opinion.

“Be careful and don’t weaken the army without reason. It will be useful for us in the times to come,” Artborg warned the queen. “Your Majesty should understand that the only reason why we didn’t manage to reach an agreement with the bosses from *the Order of Inquisition* is that they refused to discuss anything with us. They simply buzzed on and on, about the same things all day long,” said Artborg.

“We see. Why are you telling us about it as if I didn’t know anything about those rats? I have met them many times. And I know that if they stubbornly refuse to do something, you’ll never gain their support. I believe you,” agreed Queen Abellin.

“These inquisitors are difficult to talk to. You can expect nothing from them, except for nasty behaviour. Maybe, it’s just as well to wage a war. In case we win, we will get rid of those rats,” Artborg expressed his opinion.

“You know everything about Her Majesty’s view on this matter. Her Majesty is not going to sacrifice the army. Her Majesty feels sorry for every dead soldier. And any war is nothing but manslaughter,” said Dmitry.

“Everything you said is true. But you should admit that we are fed up with *the Order of Inquisitions*. And all we think about is how to get rid of them. If only we could eliminate father Trey, so many problems would be solved. It’s he who terrorizes the people, and sets them against Zondon. What a pity that all the attempts to kill him, turn out to be a failure,” Tuibe summed up.

Dmitry and Artborg presented to the Queen a detailed report about what has happened to them in the castle of the *West Inquisition*, after which they left Queen Abellin's apartments and came to Kate's flat. There, besides Kate, they found Kelly and Lissa.

"Hi ladies, here we are," said Dmitry and he sat next to his sweetheart.

"What have you been doing in our absence? You look a bit frustrated today," Artborg addressed the young women.

"That's true. I have also noticed that Kate and Lissa haven't talked to each other for a few days," Kelly agreed.

"What are you hinting at? Lissa and I are good friends. I don't understand what are you talking about," said Kate as she took up a defensive stance.

"Really? You deal with each other a lot, but you don't talk to each other. I can feel it in my bones that something is wrong here," Kelly gave her friends away accidentally.

"Shut up, Kelly. You are talking nonsense. We get on with each other pretty well," Lissa tried to justify herself.

Artborg stood up from his armchair. Kate and Kelly had been sitting on both sides of it. And he began his story in the middle of the room.

"Are you sure you want me to tell you the whole story? Very well then... Today in the morning we arrived at the castle of *the West Inquisition* in order to see the leaders of the *Order of Inquisitions*, and settle a conflict between our people. But from the very beginning they refused to discuss anything with us. They demanded that we betray the *Zondon Inquisition* otherwise they threatened to deploy their troops to Zondon. Naturally, we didn't agree with their approach. As a result, they ambushed us and they deployed an army of thousands. As a consequence, I was wounded. We even thought we might die. So we decided to reveal our secrets to each other. But we have managed to survive. And now you will hear everything about it," said Artborg and he fascinated the young women.

"The result is that we have found the reason why you don't talk to each other. It turned out that all this situation occurred after Artborg had sex with my woman Lissa, and after I had sex with his woman Kelly," Dmitry revealed the whole truth.

"At first I've also tried to avoid meeting you, so as not to catch your eye.

Eventually, as ill luck would have it, we were invited to the same conference, and the truth got out. Sorry for having sex with Lissa. She was so much like my first wife. I couldn't resist the temptation," Artborg excused himself.

"And I am sorry for having sex with Kate. It's my fault too. I simply know her for so long, and the old feelings broke free, so we decided to do it," Dmitry confessed.

"As far as I can understand, I was the only person to be left out of this action. No one told me before," sniffed Kelly.

"Well, I would never have believed that such things can happen to us," admitted Kate.

"There's always something strange about us. To be truthful, I still can't believe my ears," uttered Lissa.

"What will you say to justify yourselves?" Kelly asked again.

“I am still shocked and I promise that from now on I will be faithful to Artborg, never again in my life will I betray him,” Kate admitted her guilt.
“Dmitry, I am so sorry for giving in to Artborg’s seduction games. I promise you, this will never happen again,” said Lissa.

CHAPTER TWO

SAINT PETERSBURG

Queen Abellin and Tuibe gathered their best soldiers to make up an army, and together with the leaders of *the Zondon Inquisition* they went to St. Petersburg, this time for quadrilateral negotiations. The *Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* were also to take part in these talks.

“We are going to negotiate with *the Order of Inquisitions* again. I can’t even remember how many times I’ve visited the castle of the *North Inquisition* during my fourteen years of reign. All I remember is that it’s very difficult to reach an agreement with them,” said Queen Abellin, while sitting in her white limo on the way to St. Petersburg.

“We haven’t travelled under escort for quite a long while. But the situation cannot be helped. What is more, we’re not alone. The leaders of *the Zondon Inquisition* are travelling with us,” answered Tuibe who was in the same limo with the Queen.

“It’s not a big deal. It’s morning, and we will soon reach our destination. To tell you the truth, we are being escorted not because we’re afraid to travel alone, but because the castle of the *North Inquisition* poses a great threat to us,” Queen Abellin reassured herself loudly.

“The Chauffeur that our butler Michelle has found, is a careful driver, isn’t he? The chauffeur is the mirror image of the butler. And above all, they have been working together for a long time. Therefore, they know each other pretty well,” said Tuibe.

“Right. They have so much in common. Even their names sound similar. However, one of them is from France, and the other is from Russia. By the way, the chauffeur’s name is Tichelle,” said Queen Abellin.

“At last, we are in the city. It means that very soon we will reach the castle of the *North Inquisition*,” added Michelle.

“It’s so interesting to have a look at the castle. I wonder what they are talking about over there,” said Tuibe.

“Let’s remove the screen. Or simply lower the tinted windscreen. We can also switch on the hidden microphones, so we could hear everything they say,” said Queen Abellin.

“ We should try to become accustomed to them. They are having a chat with each other. Would that be dangerous? It’s unlikely that they are attempting to kill us,” said Tuibe.

“I see you don’t think at all about the forthcoming meeting. It looks as though it doesn’t bother you,” said Queen Abellin.

“I trust that Your Majesty will deliberate well. There have already been so many of them. Imagine, how many of them could be now. If Your Majesty cares about each and every one of them, Your Majesty can lose her cool,” said Tuibe.

“Well, you are right. There’s really nothing to worry about,” said Queen Abellin.

The cars drove into a tiny court, so small that they could hardly fit in. The guards from the Royal Brigade got out of their cars, after that. By doing this, they were at the same time safeguarding *Zondon* and *the Zondon Inquisition* leaders. Another gate was open. This time it was the gate to the castle. And very soon the guests from *Zondon* and *the Zondon Inquisition* found themselves inside.

Even though the castle looked scary and frightening from the outside, inside it was completely different. It looked the same as the castle of the *West Inquisition*.

Nothing has changed here within the last ten years. The same diamond staircase, major feature of the *North Inquisition*, was leading upstairs from the main hall, where the heroes were standing at the moment. The only difference was that more paintings and crosses were on the walls. Even before, there were so many paintings and crosses, that there was almost no free space left. The delegation from *Zondon* walked across an expensive carpet, left behind a painfully familiar fireplace, climbed a number of flights of steps, climbed up a sumptuous staircase, and having roamed the *North Inquisition* labyrinths for some time, they finally reached a beautifully lit conference room, with grilles on the windows. The leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* were already waiting for them.

“Welcome to the *North Inquisition*, Your Majesty,” said father Flurt, head of the inquisition, who in an overconfident manner, came forward and bowed to Queen Abellin.

“At last we have managed to get together and discuss the Quadripartite Cooperation Treaty between our nations. I am saying this, because Your Majesty has send to us in the past, some strange representatives. It’s impossible to reach a compromise with them,” said father Trey, head of *West Inquisition*.

“I won’t let you treat my representatives like that. If you behave in such a manner again, we’ll have to respond to it,” Queen Abellin answered immediately.

“We are tired from travel. Could you please, show us first to our quarters? Tomorrow morning we shall begin our discussions,” Tuibe hurried the Inquisitors.

“Of course we will. We allocated the very best accommodation for Her Majesty. That’s how we have planned. First we would like to announce lunch,” uttered Azar, head of *South Inquisition*.

“It’s our pleasure to have Your Majesty feast with us,” came forward Nokkuf, head of *the Zondon Inquisition*.

The heads of *the Order of Inquisitions* and the *East Inquisition* were green with envy, since they hated Nokkuf more than anybody else.

“Welcome, Your Majesty! We would be pleased if Your Majesty takes a seat at the table,” said Glurt, head of the *East Inquisition*. He was so happy to be in the same dining room with the Queen. Someone had to invite the Queen. And they chose him to ask the Queen. The two friends left the hall and they entered another room. It was as beautiful as the previous room. But the first thing they saw, it was a timber table, which was filled with delicious looking foods.

“I wonder how much have they paid for all that,” asked Nobb, the Patriarch of Zondon’s Magic Church.

“You’d better eat and keep silent. Tomorrow we will have enough of it,” advised a strong red-haired young man in red clothes. His name was *Fire*, and he belonged to an organization called the *Order of Elements*. Only the current leader was allowed to carry such a name. It was a great honour, given exclusively to the most powerful magician of the Order who eventually becomes its head.

“I see, you are making progress too,” said father Ignatius to the leader of the *Order of Elements*. “As long as ten years ago no one has heard of your order. Or better said, no one was willing to pay any attention to it. Today you keep in fear a good half of Magic Russia,” continued Ignatius.

“Thank you for your compliment. We do our best to make progress,” responded immediately *Water*, a beautiful young woman with snow-white skin, blue eyes, and wearing white and blue clothes. She was the head of the *Order of Water* and she resembled this element very much.

“Still, the fact that you have united, contributed greatly to your popularity. Before that, when you were split, no one was willing to deal with you. But now everything is different,” pointed out Sergius, who was Ignatius’ assistant.

“We are often compared to *the Order of Inquisitions*, but that is not true. We are not like them. We just have similar opinions on some issues. But our positions are far from being the same,” noticed *Air*, a middle-aged man with dark-blue hair and clothes.

“Even though you deny being similar to *the Order of Inquisitions*, had they not supported you, you wouldn’t have achieved so much,” academician Gorr reminded them.

“So? Everybody is trying to help each other. It’s not a secret that if it wasn’t for the support you get from Zondon, your *Fifth Inquisition* would be unlikely to exist,” stated the facts *Land*, a beautiful middle-aged woman with dark brown hair, and wearing a long dress, which was even darker than her hair.

“That’s precisely the point. Why should your order have the right to exist, but ours shouldn’t?” asked Nokkuf.

After having a proper diner, the leaders of Zondon and *the Zondon Inquisition* together with the heads of *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements*, with their bodyguards, walked to their rooms, at the hotel, which was situated right in the castle of the *North Inquisition*.

“At last, we can relax,” said Queen Abellin and she jumped on a huge bed in the middle of the room.

“What a pity that tomorrow we have to deal again with those Inquisitors,” said Tuibe and she followed Queen Abellin and jumped in the same bed.

“What shall Tichelle and I do?” asked Michelle having entered the queen’s room.

“You are free to do whatever you want. And please, don’t bother us,” reacted Queen Abellin.

“May we stay with you?” said Tichelle and he came in next to Michelle.

“You may stay if you wish,” said Tuibe and she cast a stern glance at the servants.

“Let’s go! Queen Abellin and Tuibe are very tired after the travel. We’d better leave them alone,” Michelle said to his friend.

“We shall go then. If you need anything, just ring for us and we will be here,” said Tichelle and both servants left the room.

“To my mind, the welcome we got from *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* was quite warm. How do you find it?” asked the Queen when she was alone with Tuibe.

“Don’t forget that these very Inquisitors have lately attempted to kill Artborg and Dmitry. They failed, so today they want to show off how kind they are in order to redeem themselves,” Tuibe reminded the Queen.

“Right, you should keep an eye on these rascals. They may smile to your face, but then they attack you behind your back,” said the Queen.

“If they just dare mention *the Zondon Inquisition*, I’ll arrange a show with fireworks for them. I didn’t bring along the guards with me for nothing,” continued the Queen.

“Let’s go for a walk along *North Inquisition* so we can feel as if we were the real conquerors of this place,” said Tuibe.

“There’s nowhere to walk here. The whole square, except for a small court, is occupied because there, construction works are in progress. And it’s no point in wandering anywhere now. It’s already 2 PM,” said the Queen.

“I suggest that we take a walk along the endless corridors of the *North Inquisition* just like we did in the past. Of course, if you are not afraid of getting lost,” said Tuibe.

“Quite a good idea. I will just lace my shoes, and we’ll go an search for fun,” said the Queen.

The queen and her friend decided not to waste time. They left their room, and they went for a walk along the *North Inquisition* building, feeling as if they were at home.

“Have a look at that nice sculpture of an inquisitor killing a demon. What a brave act,” laughed Queen Abellin.

Look! There’s another one over there, the same as this one, but it’s black. And these Inquisitors are fond of showing off their good side,” noticed Tuibe.

“They have no sense of harmony at all. They brought so many trophies from all over the world, clattered them here, and they consider it to be visual arts. The floor is going to collapse because of that. Meanwhile, they continue doing it, and they feel really happy about that,” said Queen Abellin.

“You are right, as usual. The time is passing by, and the *North Inquisition* is getting more and more filled up with all these things,” said Tuibe.

“Leave them alone. They are rich and greedy. They have more money than us, and *Zondon Inquisition*. And *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* are among the richest in the whole magical world,” said Queen Abellin.

“Oh, really? I know way. I mean that it will be hard to fight with them since they are so rich. And what’s the problem? We undoubtedly have the best fighters in the world,” said Tuibe.

“Our soldiers might be strong, but I am sorry to send them to their doom. That’s the thing,” Queen Abellin pointed out.

“Well, all we can hope for, is that things will sort themselves out,” sighed Tuibe without believing what she had just said.

When Queen Abellin and Tuibe turned around the corner, they saw both Michelle and Tichelle walking into the *North Inquisition’s* castle.

“How nice that we have met,” Queen Abellin was the first to notice her chauffer and her butler.

What a coincidence! We have also decided to go for a walk, and are happy to see Your Majesty,” answered Michelle.

“I hope you didn’t get lost without a map. The castle of the *North Inquisition* is so large that in case even once you turn left, instead of turning right, you can say goodbye to your life,” joked Tuibe.

“It’s a great honour for us to be here. We are so happy that this time Your Majesty has taken us on this trip,” answered Tichelle.

“You are right, the place is so beautiful. The only thing I can’t understand is why they show off so many works of art,” said Queen Abellin.

“I absolutely agree with Your Majesty. Everything is superb, but they’ve gone too far,” said Tichelle.

“We ought to take you out more often, and show you some other places. You haven’t seen anything except for your village and Zondon. Everything seems beautiful to you,” said Tuibe.

“We’re not against this idea. At any moment we shall go with you to the end of the world,” said Tichelle.

Having had enough of walking, Queen Abellin, Tuibe, Michelle and Tichelle came back to their penthouse later that night, and everyone went to bed.

* * *

The night passed smoothly, and the next morning Queen Abellin and Tuibe, as well as the rest of the leaders of the magical movements, they all sat at the conference-table. The four parties were discussing large-scale problems.

“As the Queen of Zondon I want my nation to be happy. That is why I suggest that we resolve this conflict by peaceful means,” Queen Abellin was the first to speak, in accordance with tradition.

“*The Zondon Inquisition* is the heart of Zondon. We will never give it up, to you,” Tuibe continued.

“The whole land of Zondon is located within the territory of West Inquisition, so it’s we who decide whether the *Zondon Inquisition* will be in Zondon,” announced Trey.

“By the way, this land had belonged to Zondon long before *the Order of Inquisitions* inception,” uttered Nokkuf.

“These lands might have been yours long, long ago, but no one remembers about that. Now these lands are ours. And you’ll have to pay us rent,” continued Flurt.

“It doesn’t matter that using diplomatic means Zondon has recently got back a piece of land at the border. We don’t care about that. But still, as far as I know, Zondon is not an independent state,” reminded Azar.

“You won’t get rid of us so easily, just by staring into our faces,” said Nobb and he knocked with his fist on the table.

“That’s not our aim. Nobody is going to get rid of you. All we want is to make you a part of our big family. We simply seek your cooperation,” explained Glurt. “You are the Evil incarnated. And I’m afraid that’s impossible, since we won’t delve into the past. That will put you out of work,” added Ignatius.

“Oh, had we known that ten years ago, you’d be the ones who’d break apart, you and your *Order of Inquisitions*. We’d make the situation for you, too hot to handle,” said Fire.

“What are you talking about? Ten years ago no one had even heard of your order. Whereas we were under Zondon’s wing. I remember that we were then called *Inquisitors’ Self-defence Club*. Even at that time we had an organization larger than you have now. And today we are quite a full-fledged order,” added Sergius.

“I agree that we have wasted our time. But still, I believe that we will manage to improve the situation,” said Water cautiously.

“That is hot air. If it’s necessary, we are ready to fight,” academician Gorr reassured *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements*.

“Mind you, we are trying to talk to you in a friendly way. But as far as I can see, you are unwilling to cooperate with us. What’s the point of today’s meeting then?” asked Air.

“We are ready to cooperate. But unlike you, we are unwilling to turn into an *Evil Empire*, and betray the *Zondon Inquisition* as well,” said Queen Abellin as she revealed all the plans.

“Then, let’s start discussing the plan of mutual disarmament, and decrease troops numbers,” suggested Land.

“I’m afraid we won’t jump off the cliff. The situation around Zondon is rather unstable. We are not going to disarm or decrease our army. Only a complete idiot could contemplate doing that, under constant pressure from all sides,” said Prime Minister Tuibe exempting the subject.

The head of *West Inquisition* father Trey stood up from his armchair. He took a huge magic world-map out of the cupboard, and he spread it out on the table.

Let's then discuss the problem of hostility between the neighbouring nations. I know that you've come here in order to solve this problem. To tell you the truth, we are also greatly concerned about this issue," said the head of *West Inquisition* changing the subject.

"That's better. For a long time we've been willing to do that," said Queen Abellin, who was ready to smother Trey with kisses.

"It's not a secret that time and again, rather different nations live on different sides of a particular border. Therefore they constantly wrestle with each other. It results in bloodshed and needless victims," Flurt developed the theme.

"It's good that we are not the only ones who are concerned about this issue. It would be very difficult for us to solve it alone," Tuibe thanked the leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions*" and *the Order of Elements*.

"By the way, the problem has become enormous, mainly because of your actions. Had all the Inquisitions been a single entity, this wouldn't have happened. At least it wouldn't have gone to such extreme," Glurt accused the Zondoners.

"We offer to deploy special quadripartite brigades to the borders of the *Magic World*, and also to impose a curfew," reported Azar.

"Don't you think that such brigades will just stir up hostility, and won't solve the problem?" asked Nokkuf.

"We will keep an eye on it. We will never let such things happen," said Fire.

"We should also sign an additional document stating that under no circumstances will the brigades be entitled to cross the border," Nobb continued.

"We are ready to play hard in order to settle the conflict," agreed Water.

"How nice! Finally have we managed to agree upon something," reaffirmed Ignatius.

"We are not monsters. We look after our people. At least, we openly show to the public that we care," explained Air.

"Zondon agrees to sign the documents and to take part in a peaceful settlement of the conflict. All we need is to be sure that our troops will not fight," agreed Sergius on behalf of Zondon and the Zondon Inquisition.

"The situation is a lot more complicated than it seems to be at first sight. We are happy that you are ready to participate in the project," added Water.

"We know. We've been there before. And it's perfect that we've made such a decision together, since it will undoubtedly do all of us good," Gorr summed up.

"We have some pictures of scene of action. We would like you to have a look at them," said father Trey and he pushed a button. A huge wall-size TV-set popped up, God knows where from. "You can see in the picture West and North inquisitors taunting a Zondon inquisitor"

"And here you can see a picture of two pugnacious Zondon citizens, fighting with the soldiers of the *Order of Elements*," Flurt summed up.

"Well, this is a nice photo. There you can clearly see a Zondoner stab a knife straight into an inquisitor's heart," said Queen Abellin.

I agree with Your Majesty. That is quite a good photo. When you look at it, you can clearly understand how we should fight against the Evil emanating from the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” Tuibe helped her friend. “What are you hinting at?” We are simply showing you the photos taken at the scene of action, and you are sowing the seed of discontent between nations,” Azar corrected them.

“Let us then finish with the photos you have. Otherwise we may bite off each other’s heads, then sign all the necessary documents, and continue with the conference,” suggested Nobb.

“There is no need to hurry. If we all really want peace, we will sign the papers. We’d better solve the problems we have,” Glurt insisted.

“If we knew what would be your reaction, we wouldn’t have shown you the pictures,” sighed Fire.

“So why have you done that? And why do you take us for fools? Everybody knows that it was you who began to play the dirty tricks, therefore trying our patience,” said Nokkuf and he looked everyone in the eye.

“We used to think you were more compliant. But you harass us just like dogs do,” Water tried to play a different card.

“How dare you talk to us in such a manner? As a matter of fact, you are even worse than you seem,” Ignatius burst out.

“How dare you behave in such a manner on our home turf? We’ve done so much for you,” Air stood up from his chair, ready to confront anyone.

“I wonder, what have you ever done for us? You’d better keep your mouth shut, when you are talking to the leaders of Zondon and to the *Zondon Inquisition*,” said Sergius, who stood up from his armchair, intending to cause trouble to the head of the *Order of Air*.

“That’s it. We’ve had enough of that. The conference is over for today. Otherwise we might fight each other. We will continue discussing the issue, with clear heads, the day after tomorrow,” finished Land.

“That is the whole story. None of our meetings lasted more than an hour,” said Gorr and he cast a glance at his watch.

The conference was over. The leaders argued no more, and each of them went his own way, except for Air and Sergius. They were ready to start fighting. It was necessary to pull them apart using force. Everybody was free for two days, and could do whatever he or she wanted within the territory of the *North Inquisition*. The leaders of the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* woke up early the next morning. They left the castle of the *North Inquisition*, and they went for a walk through the magic Saint Petersburg with the intention to visit the local magic attractions.

“Let’s go first to St. Petersburg University of Magic. It’s been a long time since I haven’t been there. And even a longer time since I’ve studied there,” said Queen Abellin.

“It’s a good idea. I too remember these years. I was also with you when you’ve finished university. All Zondon’s Inquisition had once upon a time studying there.

We are happy to accompany Your Majesty,” said Tuibe speaking for the other members of the delegation.

“It's great that the University is located outside the city. We can even go for a breath of fresh air,” added Nobb.

“In fact, its remoteness from the castle of the North Inquisition is good. Otherwise this place wouldn't be impartial. In that case it would be under the authority of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*,” said Nokuff.

“I really like this place. It is one of the best universities throughout the *wizard world*,” said Ignatius.

“Who would have thought that it would become one of the best? Please note that at this university weren't just the students. Some of us were teachers there,” said Sergei.

“I too, have long been working there. Then I've decided to get a transfer to Zondon Academy, so I could be closer to home. But until now, the St. Petersburg Magic University remains my second home,” said academician Gorr.

“Since we are all so drawn to this place, we must go and visit it,” said Queen Abellin.

“This place was home at one time to each of us. Why shouldn't we go back there again?” said Tuibe.

“Every time when I come here, I forget about everything. I become a completely different person,” admitted Nokuff.

“That's because with the St. Petersburg's University of Magic it is a completely different situation than with other places,” said Nokuff.

“My grandson Leagun, too, among others, had finished this university, and I am very proud of this,” said Ignatius.

“I know your grandson. I remember him when he was a lad. He was at that time at Zondon Academy. Now he is a full-fledged fire magician,” said Sergey.

“And he is a minister under Queen Abellin. In my entire life I haven't lost a student,” said Gorr while he looked into the eyes of the Queen of Zondon.

Before long, their limos left the city. The leaders of Zondon and Zondon Inquisition were taken to visit the same old castle, which became the famous learning institution. Beautiful trees grew around the compound. Our heroes arrived soon at the St. Petersburg University of Magic. Everyone's mood had immediately improved. And their smiles were even broader.

“Here is a beautiful place,” said Queen Abellin, who was the first to step out of her limo.

“This is true. And what a blue sky there is,” said Tuibe while passing by the flowerbeds. She walked to the fountain.

“How many years have passed since we were here. And this place is almost unchanged. I remember this place being exactly the same as it is now,” said Knobb, who kept pace with the other Zondon leaders.

“I think that this place was beautiful. But with every year passing, it becomes even better,” said Nokuff.

“Let's go inside and see for ourselves,” offered Sergius.

“It’s a good idea,” said Ignatius who came closer.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Zondon and Zondon Inquisition entered the main gate and found themselves at *St. Petersburg University of Magic*.

“Why are we all on the rush? What’s the matter?” said Gorr, catching up with everyone else.

“We are all in breach of security procedures,” said the royal guard Michel.

“We could be the target for an assassin,” added Tishelle.

“Ok, ok. Now let us relax a bit,” said Queen Abelin.

“You’ve heard what Her Majesty said?” said Tuibe.

They walked through the main building of the university. It was the biggest historic building on campus. It was a little changed after the restoration. It was built mainly of stone, although a lot of glass was used too.

“Let’s see my Gold Cup for first place in the Olympics. I won it at martial arts. It has been long time since. And it still stands here on a place of honour,” said Queen Abellin, while they all stopped to see the trophies displayed on the inside walls.

“And there is my trophy. It seems as if it floats into the air. And there I see Nokuff’s trophy, and Gorr’s trophy. Each of us had his or her award displayed here,” said Tuibe.

“I’m please that all these trophies are displayed here,” said Queen Abellin.

“But in this class, I used to teach the art of tele-transportation. I am glad to see it again,” said Ignatius. He smiled as they walked through the long corridor. They walked past the classrooms, while the doors were opened. It brought back to them many memories.

“Over there are the living quarters. Let’s go and take a look,” proposed Sergius.

“We should see where they play sports. We could also visit some teachers’ apartments. And if we’re lucky, we may meet some old friends among the teachers.

“I can’t believe my eyes. This is my apartment, where I lived and I worked, said Gorr with a tear in his eye.

“Not a bad place for teachers, who are all at the highest level,” assessed Michell.

“This university is not nearly as good as Zondon Academy,” said Tishelle.

By evening, the leaders of the Zondon and the Zondon Inquisition came back to the castle of North Inquisition. The next day, they will have to go ahead with the quadripartite visit.

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The next morning the leaders of *Zondon, the Zondon Inquisition*, as well as the heads of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*, gathered as usual, in order to continue discussing the situation. The four parties had just signed the papers on imposing a curfew on the borders of their lands, and on the creation of some special peacekeeping brigades, which would patrol the borders permanently. After that they continued with the negotiations.

“We are unable to control the situation any longer. Our people go over to you, one after the other. If nothing changes, very soon there will be no inquisitors left in the *Order of Inquisitions*. Do you realize what have you done? We have an interest to demand that *Zondon Inquisition* should be dissolved. It poses a great threat to us,” said Trey to everyone in unambiguous words.

“You behave just like little children. And you can’t even understand that your organization is unpopular. To be honest, I sympathize with you. I know that it’s you who will have problems in the future. People are beginning to realize that you are doing things wrong, and you are just damaging our country. That’s why they swing their allegiance to us,” explained Queen Abellin.

“You may laugh as much as you want. But we are still the most powerful inquisition in the world. And when necessary, we can fight to keep our lead. So you’d better be more cautious when you deal with us,” said Flurt.

“Anyway, if you declare war on Zondon one day, by the next day you will have lost a good half of your army. They will just come over to join us,” said Tuibe.

“We don’t care about that, you know. We also have the *Order of Elements*. We haven’t established it for nothing. What’s more is that we are extremely rich. We can hire another army,” Azar answered at once.

“I don’t think a war will settle our dispute. And it can result in too many lives lost,” Nobb expressed his opinion.

“We agree with that. We also demand that you don’t give shelter to our runaways,” said Glurt.

“I am afraid it’s impossible. You’ve missed your time. They escape at their own wish. We can’t deny them shelter,” said Nokkuf.

“They are our people. We consider them criminals. It means that you are harbouring them,” said Fire.

“No matter what you may think they are, the point is what we think,” said Ignatius.

“By the way, have you ever tried to use good influence on your people? Maybe it might help you keep them from running away?” said Nokkuf.

“That’s our own business. Please, don’t meddle in it. You’ve tried to wipe out our system from the very beginning. We have no other way but to oppose you,” said Water as he stood up.

“And what should we do? You terrorize your own people. Your power over your people is based on bloodshed and fraud. Some day the people you’ve made fools of, will learn about it, anyway. And you will feel very sorry about that,” Sergius answered calmly.

“We are not going to lose our grip on power. We will hold on to it, until we die,” said Air with conviction.

“Anyway, very soon the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* will break up. It’s inevitable and you should bow to it. The people of this land will live happily, as they did in the good old days,” Gorr summed up.

“I feel that you are determined to act. Well, let’s see who is right,” Land said.

The heads of *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* lost their temper, because of the words of *Zondon's* and the *Zondon Inquisition's* leaders have used. So, they began to talk to their rivals in an absolutely different manner.

“We won't tolerate being talked to in such a way, within the borders of the *Holy North Inquisition*,” said Trey.

“And we won't stand the fact that you terrorize your people,” Queen Abellin started putting pressure on him.

“Believe us. We do everything we can, to provide our people with the best possible living conditions,” said Flurt.

“That's not enough. In addition, you set your people against us,” explained Tuibe.

“This can easily be changed if you stop your attempts to dethrone us,” promised Azar.

“This won't influence anything, even if you stop turning our people against us. Do you think we are complete fools? We all know that your power has been based on the fact that you meddle into our affairs for very long time,” said Nokkuf.

“Don't get me wrong. We respect our people. But we can't change our politics, and start conducting new ones so easily, however hard we may try,” said Glurt this time.

“What concessions are we talking about? Since you've been in power, you've stolen so much money, and you've made fools of so many people, that we just can't believe you. We remember how your grandfathers, got rid of all the wise inquisitors. Now there are only dim-witted ones. How dare you say something after that?” said Nokkuf.

“Don't you feel we talk too much about our people? It seems to me, that you are putting us, on the spot,” said *Fire* expressing his annoyance.

“By the way, the life of the people working for the *Order of Inquisitions* is just as good as the life of those who work for the *Order of Elements*. And you assert that you differ from your fellows! I wonder how?” Ignatius told *Fire* off.

“We are not going to talk about this topic. We are exempt,” said *Water* and he laughed maliciously.

“You pose a threat to us. In the end it will be either you, or us. We can't get along with each other. You are evil orders,” said Sergius as he carried on with his attack.

“If only you dare to send you troops here, you will feel deeply sorry about that,” warned *Air*.

“Of course. Then you will put our people on the spot. And, in this way you'll save yourselves. You turn people into gun-fodder. That is your favourite, and the only way to lead a fight,” said Gorr and he looked into his rivals' eyes, as he revealed the truth.

“Perhaps, at first you will try to split us. Then you'll try to destroy our regime. There's no point in pretending otherwise. You have been doing this for quite a long time already. You follow the Machiavellian principle: *divide and rule*,” said Land with a singing voice.

“By the way, the tensions between us are growing steadily. The result is that no one can say what is on his or her mind,” threatened Queen Abellin.

“We want you to stop right now terrorizing the people who live within the territory of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” insisted Tuibe.

“It’s impossible. Anyway, what harm can you do to us?” asked Trey.

“Take our word for it. Very soon your time will come. We have managed to defeat the army of the dead. And we will find a way to deal with you. In addition, we have the powerful

Attorand’ Sword of at our disposal,” uttered Nobb.

“You must be talking about *our sword*, that you have brought from the *North Inquisition*, where you are now staying,” protested Flurt.

“How dare you say it’s your sword? The fact that the sword has for some time been at your disposal is absolutely irrelevant. It doesn’t belong to you. And if you remember the course of events, you can clearly see that one hundred years ago, Zondon lent Attorand’s Sword to the *North Inquisition*, which was at peril, at the hand of evil forces. Tell the story how it is,” said Nokkuf, head of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

“I can’t believe my ears. You are attempting to deprive us of power! Who ever would have thought of this?” sighed Glurt, head of the *East Inquisition*.

“Everything flows. Everything changes. Have you ever heard such a saying? The clock ticks, and very soon your time will be over,” noticed Ignatius.

“Mind what you say! OK?” *Fire* warned everybody.

“It’s up to you, if you want to acknowledge the *Zondon Inquisition* or not. Let the things stay the way they are. The rest of the world has already acknowledged the fifth inquisition,” said Sergius.

“If only you knew how tired we are of you, and of your surprises,” sighed *Water*.

“To tell you the truth, we can’t still sort out why can’t you live us in peace. Why do you always attempt to help someone? Why don’t you mind your own business, instead of always poking your nose into other people’s business? You should think of looking at things from this angle,” summed up *Air*.

“You’ve mentioned some agreements. But we can’t sign them. These are aimed at Zondon’s destruction. We are wise enough not to follow your tips,” Gorr continued persisting in his opinion.

“We’ve had enough of that. The meeting is over. The day after tomorrow your visit to *North Inquisition* will come to an end. Then you will have to leave this place at once,” *Land* had his final say.

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The next morning Zondon’s and the *Zondon Inquisition*’s leaders had left the *North Inquisition*, and they walked through the magic St. Petersburg. They were eager to see as much as possible. The next day they had to leave.

“The *Inquisitors* just can’t play it cool anymore. None our meetings ended in a proper way,” said Queen Abellin sitting in same limo with the rest of the *Magic world*’s leaders.

“I think they should be left alone, Your Majesty. We’ve got enough diplomatic papers. In principle, we may not have to deal with them at all,” continued Tuibe.

“Last night I’ve paid a visit to Zondon Embassy, which is on the *North Inquisition* precinct. I’ve talked to the staff,” Nobb began.

“By the way, I have been there too. I bring good news. Recently *Zondon*’s number one TV-channel has sent a corespondent in St. Petersburg. What’s more, is that we’ve managed to organize a meeting for all the newcomers into our movement,” Nokkuf continued.

“We have also learned that there are a few clever people left in the *North Inquisition*. We have something to strive for,” finished Ignatius.

“Recently I’ve been greatly interested in the situation of the *West Inquisition*. The people there are rather displeased with the government, and with the authorities. They can’t do anything about it. The situation there has been out of control for quite some time. We should concern ourselves with this problem,” suggested Sergius.

“That’s very risky, but it’s worth trying. In case we win, the *Order of Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will be standing in our way no more,” answered Gorr.

“We have already tried many times to bring Trey down. But every time we failed,” Queen Abellin told them.

“A new attempt to kill him in such a situation, might even provoke a war. I feel as if Trey were immortal. We could get rid of him only by a miracle,” Tuibe warned about the consequences.

“I can’t find any reason, why such a bloody monster exists on this planet,” answered Nobb.

“Right. Father Trey is a very tricky man. He is up to something,” slipped out of Nokkuf’s mouth.

“And these rascals dare to say that they are doing good to their people. That’s nonsense!” laughed Ignatius.

“The fact that they have opened their borders once, is not thanks to them. The time had come, when they should have no other choice,” noticed Sergius.

“They have become a lot weaker lately. I feel we stand a chance to win,” Gorr said seriously.

The official cars stopped near one of the numerous St. Petersburg coffee houses. *Zondon*’s and the *Zondon Inquisition*’s leaders, and their guards went straight into a crowded café. Their intention was to talk face to face with the local people. Without uttering a word everybody was for a long time looking at the *Zondon*’s delegation. The majority of people, who were there, had never seen before any leader in person. They were pleasantly surprised at what they could see.

“I’m glad to see you, dear St. Petersburg’s dwellers. I am happy to be in your own city. I glad I can talk to you,” Queen Abellin began to speak.

“We know, that your life here is rather hard. But we should do away with the evil emanating from the *North Inquisition*,” said Tuibe. Some employees of the above-mentioned organization were stupefied. Dissatisfied with what she said, they left at once.

“For quite a while, the government of the *North Inquisition* has only one purpose. They want to engender a feeling of hate amongst you, and to direct it at us. You

shouldn't give up to these provocations. These people are Evil incarnated," said Nobb, when no one else spoke.

"These rascals from the *North Inquisition* consider you, the citizens these lands, as complete fools. And they make a fortune out of that," Nokkuf said in turn.

"The *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* don't think about their people at all. They just pretend to do so. But *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition*, we are trying to give you real backing," said Ignatius, while trying to persuade all. "And you should promise to us, that you won't listen to the people you have never seen in your life. Only then we will manage to improve the world, because the mankind is a part of nature. And by changing ourselves, we change the world," explained Sergius.

"The people of *Zondon* and of the *North Inquisition* had lived in peace with each other, until these wicked people, since there is no other name for such rascals, until they came to power," Gorr continued revealing the truth.

"You judge for yourselves. There's no point in concealing from us. You know it very well that your life under these conditions is rather hard," said Queen Abellin.

"By the way, do you know that before father Trey became head of *West Inquisition*, he had been in prison for more than ten years? Then he was released without having served his time. He was accused of committing acts of terror within the territory of our magic country. And a number of victims still suffer at his mercy," Tuibe revealed the truth about father Trey.

"And the head of *North Inquisition* father Flurt is not a bit better. Before he had become head of the Order, he had been a pimp. He provided young women for the high officials. That's how he got his post. Didn't you know about that?" revealed Nobb.

"We say all these things, only because your leaders are crooks. All they think about is how to illegally line their own pockets. They don't care about you at all. We have told you about two of the high officials. But the rest aren't better than them," explained Nokkuf.

"The leaders of *the Order of Inquisitions* set you against us. But we don't want to fight a brotherly nation. We hold you in high respect," Ignatius stood up for the ordinary people.

"By all means we shall try to avoid a possible war. And we ask you this. Under any circumstances, you shouldn't take part in any war against us. A future war looks likely to be inevitable. It can only lead to unnecessary deaths. The *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* have yearned for it, for a long time. And the trouble that has been brewing for quite a long time can explode at any moment. And it can only claim lives without any rational reason," promised Sergius. "All things considered, we believe that you will make a right decision. You won't give any support to the *North Inquisition*," said Gorr. He reassured the local people, that if the decisions they will adopt were correct, the next day would be better than the previous one. As a result, no one remained uninvolved.

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It was the last day of the *Zondon Inquisition* and *Zondon* leaders' visit to the *North Inquisition*. That day they were to leave the territory of the *Order of Inquisitions*. At that moment they all were in the same room, getting ready to leave. The luggage had been prepared beforehand, so that they were simply hanging around. "The week we've spent at the *North Inquisition* has passed very quickly, hasn't it?" said Queen Abellin as she checked her luggage.

"Yes Your Majesty. And I was greatly impressed. Every day there were some surprises," said Tuibe while she tried to close her suitcase. But there was so much stuff in his luggage, that he couldn't close it.

"It's great that it's all over. And we can leave the land of the *North Inquisition* without any worry," sighed Nobb.

"Don't you know that these rascals are fond of playing tricks to the very end? I am sure there are a couple of surprises left for us," Nokkuf promised.

"What could you expect from them? This is the way they are," Ignatius reminded everyone.

"And they've just attempted to kill Queen Abellin and Tuibe, haven't they? But they failed to do that. And, to be honest, since then our Queen goes and meets the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* only under heavy escort," added Sergius.

"They feel they are all-powerful, and they are showing off. Instead of helping their people, they are just humiliating them. What a pity I don't have enough strength. Otherwise, I would give them what they deserve. But I feel it in my bones that the affair comes to an end. And very soon the *Evil Empire* will have to break down, anyway. It can't last," pronounced academician Gorr.

"No one is trying to say that these monsters are good men. If it was me who decides, I would stop dealing with them altogether," said Queen Abellin and she finally packed all her luggage.

"I know Queen Abellin better than you do. To tell you the truth, such meetings are difficult for her to go through. They affect her greatly," Tuibe closed her bag just after the Queen did.

"How can I counsel Your Majesty? Stand your ground. Before long this matter is going to end. All this will be over very soon," promised Nobb.

"Maybe you are right. All these will shortly come to an end. But still, there's a lot for us to go through. You shouldn't relax," advised Nokkuf.

"The *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* have been falling apart for a long time. Their break-up is imminent," reasoned Ignatius.

"Of course, I understand that the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* will very soon be ruined. Their time has come. But I believe we ought to contribute to their downfall," reasoned Gorr.

Finally, the leaders of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* gathered their luggage, and they left the rooms together with the *Royal Guards*. They roamed along the endless corridors of the *North Inquisition* castle for around half an hour after that. Then, they came back to the Palace, where they've arrived at the beginning of their visit.

Almost all the *North Inquisition* inhabitants came to say good-bye the leaders of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition*. The courtyard was literally filled to capacity, and the number of people continued to grow. The people were looking at them from balconies and from roofs. At the same time they were waving their hands. Their gestures were saying: *go away as soon as possible and leave us alone*. I see the people from the *North Inquisition* are not fond of you,” said father Trey who had approached the leaders of *Zondon* and *the Zondon Inquisition* as if nothing had happened. Hardly had the crowd of inquisitors noticed him, and the rest of the evil leaders opened their ranks to let him pass.

“You have done it on purpose. No one came to welcome us. But at your command the entire *North Inquisition* is here to see us go. That’s the height of impudence,” said Queen Abellin as she verbally attacked Trey.

“That’s because we welcome all our guests according to the highest ranks they have. And we show them the door, according to their services to us. Haven’t you heard of that?” explained Flurt.

“Be sure that we are not going to visit you soon,” Tuibe promised everyone who could hear her.

“We always say so. But you come every time something happens. So it’s we who appoint the meetings, not you,” said Azar as he appeared from somewhere.

“It’s OK now. But some day you might come to *Zondon*. Then we will see who is right,” Nobb warned the leaders who opposed him.

“There’s no point for us to visit you. It will be better if you come here. We’ll welcome you,” said Glurt and he showed a cynical face.

“I swear. One more insult from you, and I will skin you alive,” said the head of *Zondon Inquisition* Nokkuf, and he threatened with his fist.

“That was just a joke. By the way, we are still eager to deal with you amicably. But as soon as we arrive at the truth, you pounce on us. To be honest, Nokkuf, we haven’t expected that you will betray us, and establish your own inquisition. We used to think a lot of you. You easily had the chance to become head of the *North Inquisition*,” uttered Fire.

“That’s not the problem. The time is passing by, and everything is changing too,” Ignatius answered instead of the *Zondon Inquisition*’ leader.

“You are about to leave. Let’s say goodbye to each other peacefully,” Water changed the subject.

“Same to you,” said Sergius and he came forward and looked around.

“We wish you good luck. Have a nice trip,” said Air with a softer voice. But for the leaders of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* it didn’t sound very friendly, since they knew these bastards very well.

“Good bye! Mind you, the next meeting will take place in *Zondon*,” said Gorr, who was the last to get into the limo, and to close the door.

“Bye-bye! We’ll see who will be the first to arrive at that summit,” finished *Land*. The huge gate closed, and the identical black limos with the leaders of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition*, as well as the *Royal Guards*, left the castle of the *North Inquisition*.

CHAPTER THREE

MINSK

Sitting in two black 4WD cars, Artborg, Kate, Kelly, Hezzord and Mennon have just left the Russian border and they drove into the Republic of Belarus. Their main goal was to reach London and receive a valuable artefact from the local magicians. Together with the Attorand's Sword it was supposed to help them achieve a victory in the imminent war that was expected.

A few days before that, Abellin had made an agreement with the Queen of the Magic Great Britain. Her Majesty was very polite and agreed to help Zondon in its war against *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* and provide them with a *magic staff*, a precious artefact. Those very local magicians were the leaders of the Magic England. Shortly after that, our heroes were ordered to go abroad and perform the task.

On their way, our friends suffered at their opponents' hand, which attempted to stop them. They fell into a number of ambushes, more than once. Nevertheless, they managed to cross the Belarus border and continued their way westwards towards their destination.

"We haven't had such serious unique tasks since we brought the Attorand' Sword back from the *North Inquisition*. And now we have another task, a more dangerous and breathtaking adventure," reported Artborg.

"We have just crossed the Belarus border, and the men of *the Order of Inquisition* and *the Order of Elements* have already made a number of attempts to stop us," Kate complained.

"The point is that these bastards have quickly learned where we are going, despite all the measures taken to keep it secret," sighed Kelly.

"Right. If it keeps going this way, we won't even reach Poland, let alone Great Britain," said Artborg, who was driving the car. And he pushed the accelerator.

"Let's hope that the English will send someone to help us. Otherwise we won't hold out long," said Kate and she smiled.

"I'll tell the world, that help won't hurt us in such a situation," agreed Kelly.

"The leaders of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* hate our magician friends from the West, so much so that they are constantly saying defamatory things about them," uttered Hezzord in the other car.

"Most of all, the guys from the *Order of Inquisition* and *the Order of Elements* hate to be prevented from stealing. This affects their weak point: their purse," Mennon answered the question.

"That's true. During their entire life, our enemies haven't earned even a single penny fairly," Hezzord turned the wheel.

“That because according to our laws, they are right,” said Mennon.

“*The Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* are two greatest evils in this world. They should be brought down by all means,” Artborg raised his voice again.

“Still, they go against nature. Therefore, their time is coming to an end,” reasoned Kate.

“It’s not a secret that the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* will break up very soon. But no one can say when exactly. Still, it’s just a matter of time,” added Kelly.

“We do our best to win. We have the Attorand’s Sword at our disposal. Now we are going to get the *magic staff*. These artefacts will undoubtedly help us achieve a victory.

“Generally speaking, you are right. Zondon is nowadays stronger than ever. We can easily resist our enemies,” said Mennon.

“Indeed, there’s nothing we may be afraid of. We are not alone. Everyone will help us, but no one will side with them,” said Kelly.

“Unlike the *Order of Inquisitions*, *Zondon*, has always been famous for its warriors. It doesn’t matter that our army is smaller. It’s not only me who believes that our enemies’ army won’t hold the battle lines more than a day. The victory will be ours,” said Hezzord.

“The army of the *Order of Inquisitions* is not entirely able to deploy its troops. It did rather badly in the latest wars. Their soldiers will scatter after a single shoot. No one will be able to stop them. Of course, some of our enemies’ warriors are rather strong. But they are very few in numbers. In addition, they are not at the same level to us,” said Mennon.

“We have nothing to be afraid of. God protects us even in this Evil Empire,” said Kelly.

“I absolutely agree with you. I am sure we are strong enough to defeat our foe because otherwise they wouldn’t have suffered this fate,” said Kate.

Our friends could not speed up on the road, because of the circumstances. If they did it, they would definitely be arrested. Therefore, they had to reach the point of destination by car at the normal speed limit. And it wasn’t the quickest option. Everything was under control of *the Order of Inquisitions*. It was one of the safest ways to get there.

After *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* had quarrelled with *the Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*, the latter succeeded in their attempt to capture the communications. Therefore, from that very moment, not everything worked. And if it did, it didn’t run smoothly for everyone.

“Let’s hope that the magic world community, will intervene in this matter, and it will be possible to solve it in the short run,” Artborg took a favourable view of the situation.

As for me, I doubt that we will be given the captured communications back,” reason Kate.

“And I’m afraid that the magical world community won’t provide any assistance to us in this matter. There are frequent hindrances in foreign relations,” said Kate. She put across her negative view on the state of affairs.

“Together, the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* are the greatest unresolved problem not only to our country, but also to the whole world,” said Kelly.

“It might be so, but we have to struggle with this alone,” said Kate.

“I wouldn’t be so sure about that. Perhaps *the Order of Inquisitions* is large and powerful, but it has a number of enemies. We are not the only ones who want them to vanish,” said Kelly.

“How do you think we still stand a chance to go through Belarus, without getting into a tight spot. Or have they prepared another ambush for us here?” said necromancer Hezzord asking a rhetorical question.

The Order of Inquisitions influences the situation in Belarus greatly. And they must have prepared a surprise for us,” answered the question academician Gorr.

“Without a doubt, that I recall the ambushes we got in Russia. By the way, the *Order of Inquisitions* is still rather influential in Poland. These rascal inquisitors like to put pressure upon everyone. So they can illegally bring an entire group of covert soldiers into another country.”

“The situation is getting worse. An endless full-scale war, may break out at any moment,” said Artborg and he looked around.

“Why can’t *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* live peacefully? Why are they constantly fighting?” asked Kate.

This is what their strength is based on. If they stop fighting, they will collapse,” explained Kelly.

“Haven’t they done badly in the recent battles?” said Kate.

“It’s of no importance for them. As a matter of fact, they use the army just as a human shield,” said Kelly.

“I wish all that will be over. And the good will triumph as soon as possible,” said Kate.

“Maybe, it’s just as well, that the war is only beginning. Our enemies look down their noses at us, and believe they have nothing to do with anybody else. I believe we ought to show what *Zondon* is capable of,” said Hezzord.

“We should prove our worth, so that they get shivers up their spine every time they hear the word *Zondon*,” said Mennon.

“If we wage a war, we should do it professionally. Not like our enemies, who have enlisted untrained lads from all the nearby villages. Now they boast that they have the largest army in the world. In reality, it resembles a band of badly trained mercenaries,” said Artborg.

“Right. They’d prefer all their things to be bigger, even though they are not the best. Consider their castles. There are so many artefacts in them that there’s not enough space left. Do you remember how last year the floor collapsed at the *Northern Inquisition* castle? Still, they understood nothing. And they continue cluttering up their castle with pillage. There’s no other name for it,” said Mennon.

When passing by a magic bar, our friends decided to stop, and to drop in. In Belarus the heroes from *Zondon* were as famous as they were in Russia. But the locals had never seen such celebrities with their own eyes before. Therefore, they stared with interest at the foreign guests for quite a long time. But, unlike Queen Abellin, or Nokkuf, or others, our heroes came into the café not to reveal the truth, but simply to have meals together. And by doing so, they have warmed up the atmosphere around them.

“We are in one of the local café. How do you like it,” Artborg said and joined the queue.

“Our cafés are better. But this one is quite OK. I have expected it to be much worse,” noticed Kate.

“That’s a pity, but we are likely to stand up. There are no empty seats here,” sighed Kelly.

“You shouldn’t expect more, from a small republic in Eastern Europe. It’s not the USA,” uttered Hezzord.

“Have you noticed that the views around here are magnificent? And that everything around the town is neat?” said Mennon, who found some advantages.

“It resembles our homeland greatly, doesn’t it?” Only that the Russian expatriates who live here are unwilling to speak Russian,” said Artborg and he finally ordered something.

“Come here. We have found some empty seats, but not next to each other,” Kelly shouted to her friends.

“We ought to hurry up, so that nobody occupy our seats,” Kelly hurried her friends.

“We should also check in, to a hotel. We still don’t know where we are going to sleep,” Hezzord warned everybody.

“We ought to do it as soon as possible,” said Mennon.

“Are you tired after such a long travel? Do you feel the same?” said Artborg to Kate and Kelly.

“Do you know why they haven’t brought a spoon for me?” asked Kate.

“And for me just two slices of bread instead of three,” said Kelly.

“That’s a pity. But I have a *camp spoon* with me. I can give you mine. It’s clean,” said Hezzord and he passed his spoon through the entire room of the café.

“I know you like bread. So I have taken more,” Mennon shared his thoughts with them.

“At last, we have solved all our problems, and we can have a meal in peace,” Artborg expressed his joy.

“How do you like the local food?” Kate asked her friend, while stirring the soup.

“Decent enough, but not better. I wish we were in Poland as soon as possible. It’s much better there,” sighed Kate.

“Germany is even better. Everything there is best,” said Hezzord.

“At the very least, we should reach Minsk. It’s a little bit more civilized,” Mennon summed up.

Our friends ordered some more food. They came back to their seats and continued with their meals. The heroes had to talk to a good half of the café clientele, in order to learn where a nearby magic hotel is located.

“At least, now we know where the hotel is, so we won’t have to sleep in the car,” Artborg sighed with relief.

“What luck that the hotel isn’t far from here. And we needn’t go through the whole country,” noticed Kate.

“That’s true. Do you remember how we were looking for a hotel in Smolensk, yesterday? We’ve hardly managed to do it. And it turned out to be on the outskirts of the city,” Kelly reminded them.

“Right. Such things are difficult to forget,” agreed Hezzord.

Even though there are checkpoints, which belong to the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*, we’ve managed to go through a half of Belarus, without getting into an ambush. But we have to take alternative routes, away from the checkpoints, therefore we are losing time,” stressed Mennon.

“It’s a pity that there are such checkpoints in Poland as well. I have already said that the *Order of Elements* and the *Order of Inquisitions* are still influential in that country. But there will be no checkpoints in Germany and France, and we will be able to drive faster,” said Hezzord.

“In Poland we will definitely have no lodging problems. Our friends, together with the twins Arthir and Barhir and their twin-wives Arhira and Barhira, live there. We will stay over night at their place. No one knows that we come. But they are one of the best seers in the world. They know everything about everybody,” said Mennon.

“That’s true. They have a fine large house, filled with different electronic gadgets and *magic gear*. In case of danger we can always find shelter there. They’ve got even a secret tunnel to escape, in case of extreme danger,” said Hezzord.

“What kind of problems do you think are we likely to face with the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* in Germany and in France?” asked Kelly.

“Only if they manage to bring their people illegally, in order to stop us there,” said Kate.

“Hour after hour we are getting further and further from our homeland. Soon after we will have performed our task, we will be given another one,” Artborg continued the conversation.

“Could you keep your voices down? I wouldn’t like all the people who are here, to find out about our plans. Even though it’s not a *magic café*, there might be spies here,” said Artborg.

“I suggest we change the subject of our conversation. At first we speak about one thing, then we discuss about another,” said Hezzord.

“It’s not a big deal. We will be out of *Zondon* for a long time. The main thing is that we manage to survive after all the ambushes that *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* are setting for us, while they try to stop us,” said Kate.

“I agree. We have been given a very important task. And we should perform it, in order to help our country. Right?” said Kelly.

“We’ve already spent two hours here. It’s a long time since we left. And we didn’t fall into an ambush. If we did, we would be in big trouble,” said Artborg while he pushed away an empty dish.

“Right. Let’s leave this place now. If we stay too long, we will never reach our destination. I’m not fond of going to bed late, either. I want to *recharge my batteries* so to speak,” said Mennon.

“Wait for me, I haven’t finished eating my dinner yet,” Hezzord continued filling his mouth.

“Eat faster then! You’ve ordered so much food that you can hide behind it. Stop talking!” said Mennon.

After having a sufficient meal our friends got back into their cars and hit the road. Before it got dark, our friends managed to find a hotel, not far from Minsk, and they’ve decided to spend the night there.

“And here is our penthouse. At last can we have some rest,” said Artborg and he closed the door.

“This is quite a modestly furnished room, but is a very spacious one,” said Kelly when she found some positive moments.

“The view from the window is wonderful. The hotel is situated on a hill. And we can keep an eye on everything around us, so as not to get into another ambush,” said Hezzord while he looked around.

“This is mine. I shall sleep near the window,” said Mennon and he sat on the bed he had chosen, and he put his luggage aside.

“Well, the furnishings here are a little bit old-fashioned,” finally agreed Artborg and he said the magic word to protect the entrance door.

“Then this bed will be mine,” Kelly flopped on the bed and turned the TV-set on.

“Have a look, what nice sneakers,” Kate put on the squirrel-like sneakers.

“I know. I’ve got the same slippers, but with cats,” said Kelly.

“Will our supper be served at last,” protested Hezzord. Hardly he had said that, when the ordered meals appeared on the table of the magic hotel.

“Didn’t you have your dinner? I believe that at the canteen, you have ordered more than anybody else,” Mennon reminded him.

“This is quite a nice table,” noticed Artborg, who was the first to sit down.

“Let’s take a look if there’s anything delicious here,” said Kate.

“OK. We can at least sit together so as to be sociable,” Kelly agreed.

“Large table, isn’t it?” said necromancer Hezzord, who saw the true usefulness of the table.

“So, everybody is here at the table,” Mennon summed up and sat down the table.

“Why don’t you eat? Everything is so tasty,” said Artborg, who was puzzled.

“Thanks. We are full. How much can one eat? We don’t have eating disorders,” said Kate.

“We don’t eat as much as you do. Therefore, we definitely won’t have more meals for today,” said Kelly.

“It’s just today when you say so. Mark my words. Tomorrow you will sigh, and ask for something to eat,” noticed Hezzord.

“Leave them alone. If they want, they should eat. Right?”

Finally Kate and Kelly decided to have a fit of anger. They stood up from their chairs with a serious look, and left the hotel.

“Wait! That was just a joke,” Artborg tried to stop the Squirrel and the Cat. These were the new nicknames given to the young women, because of their beloved sneakers. And Artborg stood in their way, not letting them go.

“You are not very polite. From now on, we are on our own, and you are on your own. We shall see who will be the first to reach London,” uttered Kate and she opened the door.

“We are not going to listen to such words any more. If you continue with your pranks, you will never see us again,” added Kelly.

“We are sorry for inconveniencing you,” smiled Hezzord.

“You should understand that we are a team and we ought to stick together. If we do so, we are more likely to get to London than if we went there one by one,” admitted Mennon.

“You’re right. By combined efforts it will be easier for us to reach our goal,” agreed Artborg.

“If you, Hezzord, laugh at us once again, and you, Mennon, open your mouth, and finally, if you, Artborg, back your friends but not us, we will definitely leave you. We are tired from the road. At last let us relax. And don’t bother us. OK?” said Kate and Kelly at the same time.

“I absolutely agree with you. It’s already evening. We should retire each to our own room. Tomorrow we’ll hit the road with renewed vigour,” sighed Hezzord.

“It’s a pity no one knows what is going to happen to us tomorrow. The day may turn out to be a peaceful one, but *The order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* are unlikely to miss a chance to capture us in Belarus, since here they are as powerful as in Russia,” said Mennon.

“We should keep alert until the very end. Dangers are lurking for us around every bend, even though everything here is in perfect order,” Artborg warned everybody.

“Wow! There’s a magic game console here,” Kate rejoiced and turned on the gadget.

Finally, can we play?” said Kelly as she grabbed an unusually shaped joystick.

“Could you please turn down the volume? The TV set has the volume turned too loudly,” Hezzord warned the young women.

“The only good thing is that we haven’t been entrapped again today,” said Mennon and he sat on his bed, took his trousers off. Everyone could once again see the leg he had hurt in a fight the day before.

“They’ve given you a good hammering. Hadn’t you dodged the blows, you might have been killed in the fight,” Artborg tried to turn down the TV-set’s volume.

“Well, we will turn the volume down. But promise me not to speak so loudly. And leave some food for us. We would like to have supper before going to bed.

Agreed?” said Mennon.

“No problem. Of course, I will. Don’t bother about that,” promised Hezzord.

“That’s all. The day is over. I hope that the forthcoming night will be a calm one. We’ve already had enough shooting last night,” said Artborg.

* * *

The next morning, just after Kate and Kelly had finished reading their books, our friends decided not to waste their time and they drove off. They had little time, and it was necessary to cross the Belarus border as soon as possible.

Hardly had the 4WD cars left Minsk, when the people of *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* began to chase them. Previous attempts to intercept our friends near Smolensk and some other towns weren’t successful. Their enemies tried to do it once again, this time in Belarus.

“Watch out! We are being followed,” shouted Artborg and he speeded up.

“But for how long are they going to follow us? Are they trying to stop us in every country?” asked Kate.

“Maybe we should return fire, until they will become fewer in numbers,” said Kelly and she took the pistol hanging on her waist.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea to start shooting. They may shoot at us too, and in this case our 4WD cars will be riddled with bullet holes,” said Artborg.

“What shall we do? Shall we wait until they finish us off? If we don’t take any action, they will definitely get rid of us,” said Kate.

“You’d better prepare the weapons. We will need them later. Don’t let them see your pistol,” said Artborg.

“These rascals are ramming us again! What shall we do?” said Hezzord.

“Hit them back so that they’ll remember us for years to come. Or better still, let’s leave them behind,” Mennon advised his friends.

“It’s all very well for you to talk. But the elite army of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* is pursuing us, and they are not shabby novices,” said Artborg.

“That’s good. It’s them, not the shabby novices, who should be destroyed. And the more, the better,” said Kate.

“Put your heads down and don’t show yourselves. Otherwise you might be killed by a stray bullet,” noticed Artborg.

“Keep your mouth shut,” said Kate and she finally drew her pistol.

“We have recently used arms fire, not the cold steel, because we are fighting the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” said Kelly and she drew the second pistol.

“You’d better stop showing off your pistols until they open fire first. Otherwise we might have problems,” Artborg warned his *Cat* and his *Squirrel* once again.

“Why?” said Kate and she raised her hand in which there was her pistol.

“Don’t do that again. You may lose your hand. It’s the elite army of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* who are chasing us. Their weapons are not a bit worse than ours,” Kelly whispered in her friend’s ear.

“Get off my car, rascals,” said Hezzord, and he hit hard with his 4WD car, the side of the car of their rivals. And his enemies’ car was pushed off the road, and it fell into a ditch.

“Finally, you’ve managed to do it. I have already begun to doubt your abilities,” Mennon praised his friend.

“I haven’t expected such things from you. That was really cool. Did you see it turn over? There are just four enemy cars left. That’s a success,” said Mennon.

He shouldn’t have said that, because five more cars joined the pursuers, at the next turn. The tensions were growing. It was difficult for two cars to resist to an entire fleet.

“We’ve run into trouble. We shouldn’t have chosen this route,” sighed Artborg.

“I don’t think there are so many roads here. What is more, they can block all the roads. That’s what they did. The only pity is that we can’t lose our pursuers easily,” answered Kate.

It’s such a bad place that we can’t expect more from it. And you can’t simply take a detour,” said Kelly, who tried to see the faces of the inquisitors, who were sitting in the cars which were chasing them.

The *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* have brought so many troops here, to Belarus. No matter what you do, you can’t pass through unnoticed. And no matter how you try to analyse this, it’s the same country,” said Artborg.

“We haven’t had such a high speed chase for quite a long time. Their country is ruined, yet still these rascals help other republics,” said Kate.

“Anyway, their time is almost up. Very soon they will sink into oblivion. We are fashionable these days. When I saw for the first time, one of the inquisitors’ journals, about how ready they are to kill us, I was terrified. Then I’ve been reading this article again and again for a very long time,” said Kelly.

“I’m trying to knock down at least one more car, but I can’t,” complained Hezzord.

“First of all, mind the road, otherwise at such a high speed we can veer off the road,” noticed Mennon.

“You’re right indeed. Have a look, how many cars are chasing us. I really wish we’ve moved quickly out of sight,” said Hezzord.

“That’s true. If we manage to reach at least Poland, consider us to be safe for a little while. The rest of the cars can’t go further without obstacles,” said Kate.

“Watch out! Put your heads down. They have returned fire,” shouted Artborg and he began to dodge the enemy bullets. None of them were hit.

“As if that wasn’t enough!” said Kate and she followed the advice and bent down.

“Shall we open fire again?” asked Kelly, ready to start the fight at any moment.

“Go ahead, but be careful. I don’t think it will get worse if you shoot back,” said Artborg.

“We are lucky to drive an armoured car with bullet-proof wheels. Without these, we would’ve had to stop long ago,” said Mennon.

“Judging by this moment, I guess we won’t be able to reach even Poland. However, I shouldn’t say so about things that haven’t happened yet,” Kelly corrected herself.

“They will very soon overtake us,” said Hezzord after their car, which was rammed into by the inquisitor’s car, has almost hit a granite boulder on the side of the road.

“I guess I have finally managed to get rid of one of the drivers,” Mennon told his friends about his rather modest achievement.

“I bet that these are the best fighters of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*. You are right. Now we are not in Russia. And our enemies won’t take risks any more. The further we are from Zondon, the harder it’s for them to stop us. To be honest, they still don’t know that their time has come,” said Hezzord.

The cars continued to drive under endless gunfire. And if it continued that way, they wouldn’t last long.

“Why can’t these bastards leave us alone? Instead of looking for artefacts and treasures, they decided to harm us,” Artborg expressed his dissatisfaction.

“No one will give them anything, because they have quarrelled with everybody. A lot of time is necessary in order to make an art object with your own hands, or to obtain it. That is why they prefer to annoy us,” reasoned Kate.

“What is more, they consider it to be useless to provide their army with weapons. They are happy if they could deploy a million men without any weapons. Even if what they try to do fails, they’ll bring another million men. They have nothing to lose,” noticed Kelly.

“What a terrible road. We are lucky to have a terrain vehicle, otherwise we would have to stop,” pondered Artborg.

“Have a look,” Kate pushed a small button under her seat. A small antenna with a black and white Zondon flag on it, raised on their car’s back bumper.

“I love our flag,” responded Kelly and she aimed her gun and fired.

“To my mind, the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* are wasting their time, trying to intercept us. Don’t they have anything else to do?” said Hezzord and he turned the inside rear view mirror.

“You’re wrong. They feel that here, in Belarus, they are still powerful, and are trying to show it off by all means,” said Mennon, who has noticed Zondon’s flag on Artborg’s car, and he pushed the button under his seat too. Soon one more flag emerged. This enraged their opponents.

“Do you also want to tease these rascals? They deserve it, though,” noticed Hezzord.

“Why not? We should show them that we are better than them,” answered Mennon.

One of the *Order of Inquisitions* cars slipped between Artborg and Hezzord and that was very bad. From that moment they were separated. Therefore, they became weaker.

“Watch out, there’s danger behind,” Artborg warned the young women.

“What shall we do? There are very few of us. And on top of that, we are now split,” said Kate.

“We’ve been providing accurate fire for donkey’s ears. Still we didn’t manage to kill even a single inquisitor,” complained Kate.

“All our lives, we have used swords and magic in fight. Now we have been given guns. But no one has taught us to use the guns properly. The result is that we can’t get out of this situation,” said Kelly.

“Why is it so? We know how to shoot. But this time too many professional shooters are against us. I am afraid we may become targets ourselves,” said Kate.

“Anyway, we are not on equal footing with them. If we were, they wouldn’t have started the fight. They would’ve got scared,” said Kelly.

“I’m fed up with you,” said Hezzord and he hit the car, which kept his team’s two cars apart. He rammed it with his car’s front bumper. His opponent car’s driver, lost control of his vehicle and it veered off the road, and hit some stone boulders. It was the end of that car.

“Congratulations. Another car is out of action. Now I believe it was your driving skills which saved us, not pure chance,” said Mennon and he pat his friend on the shoulder.

“You can’t even imagine what an important manoeuvre we’ve carried out. They have almost split us,” said Hezzord.

“Oh, really? I know we would never cope with such a high number of enemies alone,” said Kate.

When our friends were driving by the ruins of the Brest fortress, they felt as doomed as the soldiers, who defended it in 1941 had felt.

“I have really forgot to say: This place is really famous. But for some reason I don’t want to die here,” said Artborg.

“Neither do I. So much is written in the textbooks about the events that took place here,” uttered Kate.

“I’m not willing to live with the fear that the defenders of a fortress live,” added Kelly.

“I don’t wish to upset you, but we are running out of petrol. I am afraid that with the petrol we have, we won’t reach Poland,” said Hezzord.

“You’re talking about another country, and we can’t even leave this one. What shall we do now?” said Kelly.

“At the moment, we can’t even imagine, what can a normal thing, like running out of petrol, could lead to us to,” said Kate.

“Our car might stop at any moment,” Hezzord warned his friend and cast a glance at the fuel gauge. “The maximum distance we can drive is half a kilometre. And there are about less than ten kilometres to Poland.”

“I’ve just got rid one more inquisitor. What a pity that this isn’t going to influence the outcome,” sighed Mennon.

“Well done, and don’t be negative. All I can add is that you are a good shooter. You should be proud that you never miss the mark. Get ready for a real fight. It will be hell here very soon. We’ll have to wrestle with an entire platoon of professionals. I’d rather prefer you helped us choose a good place, from which we can fight them at our advantage,” Artborg warned the young women.

“You mean, we have to choose the place where we’re going to be buried?” explained Kate.

“I’m not going to participate in this botched strategy. I’ll let you deal with this predicament,” refused Kelly.

“Who knows, maybe we will manage to survive in this forthcoming struggle. We have already landed on our feet a number of times,” said Kate.

“We fell once again into a trap that the inquisitors have laid for us. And I don’t know how to get out of it,” said Artborg.

“There’s nothing else to say. It will be very hard for five of us to cope with an entire platoon of selected fighters. Of course, I will try to do my best. But I can’t promise anything. I am afraid we may fall victims to their cunning,” said Hezzord to his team.

“We have no choice. We’ll have to accept the battle anyway,” sighed Mennon.

“Let’s show them what we are capable of. Let them know that we aren’t named Zondoners for nothing,” said Hezzord.

The history of our nation is a lot longer than that of *the Order of Inquisitions*. This organization does nothing but cause disturbances,” said Mennon.

Very soon the cars from Zondon have halted at a place of our friends’ choice, because of the lack of fuel. The enemy cars did the same. A fight began, and our heroes stood almost no chance to survive. But suddenly, the inquisitors started shooting at each other. A shoot-out between them ensued. And instead of running away as fast as possible, the puzzled Zondoners just looked at what was happening around them.

The fat inquisitor, the skinny inquisitor and the average inquisitor, the enemies of our friends, got out of one of their cars. It turned out that they were appointed chiefs of the operation, but the situation got out of control, which meant they had made a mistake, that’s it.

Our friends looked around and noticed three properly armed fighters. These guys have rebelled earlier against the entire army of the *Order of Inquisitions*. They were:

- a fair-haired young man,
- a beautiful young woman with piecing blue eyes, and
- another young man with light-hair.

They were fighting the evil army so desperately, that the inquisitors completely forgot about Artborg and his group. They concentrated to eliminate first the rebels within. In order to help the rebels, our friends decided to enter the fight again. It was a sort of, aim, shoot, and get rid of them.

“Don’t you find that the rebels are using some strange weapons,” said Artborg, and he finally took his brand-new Kalashnikov gun from his shoulder, and started shooting at the evil inquisitors.

“I absolutely agree with you. We Zondoners, usually use Kalashnikov guns, whereas the Inquisitors use imported weapons. But this is something new,” agreed Kate.

“I feel it in my bones. It’s not as simple as it seems to be. All of a sudden, rebels we have never heard of, emerge and start attacking their own forces,” said Kelly, who smelled a rat.

“Right. The indispensable rifleman’s assault gun, wipes out everything that comes to hand,” said Hezzord, and he took the same gun as Artborg’s.

“I like this simple weapon very much. I would never exchange it for anything else,” said Mennon and he opened fire with the third gun.

“Run away, we will cope with it ourselves,” shouted the fair-haired young man.

“We’ve got enough weapons and ammunition. Run westwards and have a good journey to England,” this time the young woman with blue eyes and black curly hair addressed our friends.

“Don’t worry about us. We know quite a lot about you. We will definitely find you,” promised the other young man, who had light-hair.

“But who are you? And how have you learned about us?” asked Artborg. But no one answered.

“Why are the rebels unwilling to talk? Who are they?” Kate asked.

“I have no idea. And don’t ask me,” snapped out Kelly.

“We all have wanted some help. And we have been given it. Now it would be good to get to know where are they from. I hope these three guys are not double agents,” said Hezzord.

“What’s the matter? Why don’t you say where you come from?” asked Mennon.

“Fine, if you want to know the truth, I’ll tell you. We are the members of the British Magic Intelligence. We came here to help you,” said the fair-haired young man, revealing the truth.

“Our senior officer have sent us to help you reach London,” said the blue-eyed young woman, and she threw a grenade towards the inquisitors and blasted the inquisitors’ jeep.

“Let’s not talk from such a distance. Well discuss everything face to face, after the fight,” suggested the twenty-years-old young man.

The place in *Bialowieza Forest*, which had been until now very peaceful, turned into a real battlefield. The sounds of shooting guns, and exploding grenades, could be heard everywhere.

“Are they really, from the British Magic Intelligence? You came just in the nick of time. “To tell you the truth, we have already doubted than anybody would help us,” Artborg couldn’t believe his ears.

“I wonder how did they learn that we needed assistance,” Kate asked her friend.

“There’s nothing to guess. We have needed help because the inquisitors came to our land,” Kelly reloaded her pistols.

“As our grandfathers used to say, it had been a wonderful time until the Inquisitors appeared in our country, and they started to exterminate the people. In the end, only Zondon was left standing. These rascals got rid or everyone else,” Hezzord reminded everyone.

“By the way, where have you been before? Why didn’t you come to our aid earlier, while we were in Russia?” Mennon asked another question.

“That was too risky. We were afraid we could be taken prisoners. That’s why we’ve decided that it would be better to meet you here, at the Polish border,” explained the fair-haired young man with slender features.

“In Russia they check all the inquisitors very carefully. And we were afraid we won’t pass the inspection,” explained the pretty young woman.

“What are you talking about? You have managed to get out of your country, yourselves. It’s here where you need real assistance. And we have come to your rescue,” explained the other young man.

“Now it’s clear where you are from, and what you are doing here,” thought Artborg, who reloaded his gun.

“What do you think? Should we trust them? Are they really the people who they claim to be?” Kate pondered.

“It would be fine to learn more about them. We shouldn’t stop asking them. They still have to prove where they are from. We have to be absolutely sure, that they are not agents from the *Order of Inquisitions*,” answered Kelly.

“It would be really great, if all they’ve said was the truth. In such a moment help would definitely be not out of place,” noticed Hezzord.

“Help is never out of place. By the way, are you Russian?” asked Mennon.

Personally I came from Russia, not from the small republics. And I have also finished Zondon Academy,” explained the fair-haired young man.

I am an English woman, born and educated in the United Kingdom,” explained the blue-eyed young woman.

I am an Englishman too. And I am proud of this,” said the other young man.

“You speak good Russian. Good on you,” Artborg praised the Briton.

“They are doing their best. Otherwise they wouldn’t have managed to pose as the Order’s inquisitors,” commented Kate.

“They had no choice. Otherwise they would’ve found themselves in our shoes, but without any relief,” pondered Kelly.

“What an occurrence. Until recently I would never believe such a thing,” said Hezzord and he took a pistol out of his holder.

“Are you, by any chance, married?” Mennon asked the young woman and the young man.

“We have been together for a long time, but haven’t got married yet,” explained the young man with short fair hair and green eyes.

“We are utterly in love with each other. Our relationship is very important to us,” added the slim young woman with slender features, which resembled those of the young man.

“They are constantly kissing. I always feel as if I were the odd one out,” complained the other young man.

“What an interesting story you have told us. I wish the shootout had finished as soon as possible, so that we could debrief thoroughly these spies,” thought Artborg.

“They are a nice couple, aren’t they?” Kate appreciated them at their face value.

“I absolutely agree with you. They are both slim and good-looking. And what is the most important, they enhance each other perfectly,” agreed Kelly.

“We are making progress. Have you noticed that the number of inquisitors still alive is significantly decreasing? If we continue this way, we will very soon achieve a victory in this fight,” Hezzord reassured everyone.

“Without the help of those three, it would be unlikely that we would achieve such results,” said Mennon, who was the last to acknowledge, that the three new guys were their allies.

“Come with us. We have enough fuel and ammunition,” suggested the fair-haired young man.

“If we join forces, we will do a lot better,” the young man reassured everyone.

Despite the shooting, our friends joined the magic newcomers, who were trying to help them get out of the claws of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*. What was more, everything necessary was at their disposal.

“Watch out! It’s quite a dangerous place,” Artborg warned everybody. He put his head down and crawled on his stomach.

“As soon as we reach our destination, we will definitely be full of mud,” said Kate and she hid behind a small hill.

Mud is nothing serious. You can take a shower. The main thing is not to fall under the enemy bullets,” said Kelly and she finally crawled up to their car, which had been blasted in the middle of the road.

“Hold on. There’s not much left. Very soon all this will be over,” Hezzord reassured everybody.

My name is Mennon. These guys are Artborg, Hezzord, Kate and Kelly,” the academician was the last to creep to the point of destination.

“It’s nice to meet you. My name is Griff, this is my girlfriend Miel and my mate Selen,” the fair-haired young man in turn introduced himself and his friends.

“We were already going to come to your rescue. Luckily, you have managed to stay alive,” said Miel and she threw another grenade.

“We’ve heard much about you. In reality, it turned out that you are as good warriors as you are said to be,” said Selen.

“Thanks you very much. Today, we wouldn’t have survived without you,” Artborg thanked the newcomers.

“I hope that now, we will finally manage to defeat the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” Kate told them about the pleasant moment.

“I hope so. I wish we left Belarus and came to Poland as soon as possible,” Kelly supported her friend.

“I would like to thank you for coming to our relief. It would have been very hard without you,” reminded them Hezzord.

“Your name is Griff, right? Have you, by any chance, made friends with Dmitry? Your face is very familiar to me. Long ago I was your teacher,” said Mennon.

“That’s true. I used to know Dmitry, as well as his former friends Neon and Leagun. We were classmates. Leagun and I studied to be Inquisitors, whereas Neon and Dmitry studied to become Daggers. You were our teacher. However, you

may not remember me since I have missed plenty of your lectures. I had long red hair at that time. I can clearly remember that you kept the whole academy in awe, and that we were trying to resist you,” laughed Griff.

“It’s a small world indeed. Everybody knows everybody else. It’s true that all the people on this Earth are from Adam and Eve. At least if they aren’t first cousins or third cousins, at least they are fifth cousins. Although there is not such next of kin as a fifth cousin,” uttered Miel.

“As for the reason why we came to help you, we don’t deserve any praise. We are just doing our job,” Selen summed up.

After our friends had joined forces with the newcomers, they began to do much better. The other inquisitors started to realize that they might be defeated.

“It’s impossible to stop fighting these inquisitors after they have done so much harm to us. If we do that, tomorrow the country will again be turned into a place where idiots are enlisted at the same pace,” said Artborg and he continued shooting.

“We should fight until *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* break up completely. It’s going to happen very soon. They are coming to an end,” Kate agreed.

“The followers of *the Order of Inquisitions* experimented with terrorism, but they still try to establish good relationship with our allies,” reported Kelly.

“They have no other choice. They quarrelled for a long time with all the clearheaded people,” answered Hezzord.

“Their system is breaking down at a huge rate. The more shattered they get, the more persuasive they are in their speeches. They state that they have no problems. Only the others do,” continued Mennon.

“They have been scornful for quite a long time. And they may collapse at any moment,” Griff evaluated the situation.

“Even their former allies are unwilling to deal with them. But they, just like small kids, they still want the others to make friends with them,” Miel uttered.

“They have no future. They understand it, and they can’t do anything about it. Their system has become obsolete. And they are incapable of prolonging their existence any longer,” said Selen.

“The soldiers of *the Order of Inquisitions* are trying to surround us,” said Artborg, while he found another spot to dodge the bullets.

“Don’t worry about that. We have already destroyed a greater part of the group who attacked us. It’s all over, with the exception of the shouting,” Kate reassured Hezzord.

“They are coming closer,” said Kelly and she took a step back, hoping to move away from her enemies.

“I don’t fancy hand-to-hand combat. But there’s no choice,” said Hezzord and he fired almost at point-blank.

“Take this, muddle head!” said Mennon. One of the inquisitors managed to get through, to our friends. But he couldn’t hold out long. Mennon took a dagger, and thrust it straight into the poor devil’s heart. He fell dead without uttering a word.

“Nice work. You aren’t Martial Arts teacher not for nothing. I remember I have learned a lot during your lessons,” said Griff and he threw a javelin into a coming warrior.

The army of the *Order of Inquisitions* is defeated. If we pull our socks up, very soon the victory will be ours,” predicted Miel.

“We are a real team. Our work is so well-coordinated, that we’d better continue staying together,” said Selen and he shot again.

The Fat inquisitor, the Skinny inquisitor and the Average inquisitor finally realized that they have ruined their work. They quickly retreated to their cars. They’ve gathered what was left of the defeated army of the *Order of Inquisitions*, and they went with them out of sight, under our heroes’ bullets. Very soon all was quiet. Our friends were sitting in a forest clearing, among the dead bodies and the burning cars.

The newcomers and the Zondoners filled their cars’ tanks with fuel, and they rushed deeper into the forest. They were going to spend the night there, in the *Bialovezha Forest*, so that nobody could find them. They were to cross the Polish border the next day at dawn. After driving for a few hours, our friends found a nice place in the thick of the forest and decided to stop there.

“As long as we are going to spend the night here, we should get ready properly. Some of us should gather twigs to make a fire. The others will go hunting with me. Otherwise we will be hungry today. And someone should stay here and safeguard the camp,” said Artborg.

“I am very tired. I suggest that I stay here as a guard,” said Kelly. She was unwilling to do anything. That’s why she decided not to leave the camp.

“And I’ll help her keep everything under control,” said Kate quickly.

“I’ll go hunting with you. That’s what I can do best. May I join you, I am fond of hunting,” said Hezzord and he came closer to Artborg.

“Well, we have nothing else to do, but go and gather firewood,” said Griff.

“What circumstances. If we continue this way, we won’t get to know each other soon,” said Miel as a reaction.

“Let’s go,” hardly had Selen said these words, when the newcomers made few steps. And in a blink of an eye they vanished behind the trees.

“At last, we can rest a bit,” said Kate and she threw aside her heavy bag. She took her laptop out of the car, and she sat down under a tree.

“I don’t like these newcomers. To me, they look a bit too suspicious. We ought to ask them some more questions,” said Artborg, who couldn’t calm down even after they had had a two-hours walk throughout the forest in search of wild animals.

“We are so glad to see you,” said Griff all of a sudden, and his friends came out of nowhere.

“You are taking us for fools. You spy on us,” Hezzord said in an absolutely different voice.

“I don’t understand what you are talking about. We are your real rescuers. The British Magic Intelligence had sent us. You saw it with your own eyes that we

killed inquisitors. And without our help, you wouldn't have got out of that ambush," Miel answered calmly.

"Then prove to us that you are telling us the truth. We already don't know whom to believe. The inquisitors can do anything to get our confidence," said Mennon in a softer voice.

"Don't doubt us, when we tell you that we've come here to help you. We have all the necessary papers. We can easily prove who we are in reality," Selen began to justify himself.

"Relax, we believe you. But you should take our concerns into consideration. We just want everything to be OK," pointed out Artborg.

"No problem, I suggest that we forget all about the incident, and we go ahead," Griff sighed with relief since all the doubts passed into history.

Before it got dark, Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon together with Griff, Miel and Selen had shot a huge wild boar. They also gathered plenty of brushwood and came back into the camp, where Kelly and Kate were impatiently waiting for them. Very soon the night fell, and our friends, together with the newcomers, started eating wild-boar barbeque, and at the same time, they told each other stories from their past.

"We had a nice day, hadn't we? Even though it was a hard one. We have survived again. And what's more, we made new friends," Artborg evaluated the situation.

"We are also very happy that we have finally met you," said Griff.

"The barbeque is delicious, isn't it?" said Kate and she took another meat slice.

"I am happy you like the food we have brought," smiled Miel.

"I love hunting. I hate monotony," added Kate.

"I wish we reached our destination. These daily skirmishes with the *Order of Inquisitions* drive me crazy," said Hezzord and he stretched himself.

"In Germany there will be no armed bands of the *Order of Inquisitions*, so it's going to be a bit easier there," said Selen.

"I hope so. They are capable of doing almost anything. Even making an ambush in France is not a problem for them," added Mennon.

"As soon as I've seen you, I understood you are from Zondon. We look very much alike. One can see you've graduated from our academy," Artborg reminded Griff of his roots.

"And what's the point? We have finished Zondon Academy as well," Kate got into the conversation.

"And we have recently come back from Zondon," proved Kelly.

"What a pity that the problems, which had been ripening for quite a long time, has eventually cut loose. If it didn't happen, our life in Zondon could've been as good as yours in the United Kingdom," said Hezzord, and he sat closer to the fire.

"As far as I know, the magicians in the United Kingdom, unlike us, Zondoners, have two names. You don't cut your old names away from your memory. We know your new names, but not the old ones," Mennon expressed his interest.

"My real name is Efim. To be honest, it wasn't difficult to remember," said Griff, who as usual, was the first to speak.

“And my old name was Ann, or Anna in your language,” admitted Miel.
“And I was called John, or Ivan in Russian,” Selen summed up.

CHAPTER FOUR

KIROV

Galita, Ditta and Gamma have just crossed the border of Kirov region, the place with plenty of forests and wild animals. Sanschursk settlement, which was earlier called Tsarevo-Sanschursk and has suffered greatly from the raids of southern nomads, remained far behind them. At some point in history, it was considered to be at the border of the Russian Empire. To this place were deported all the people that the tsar didn't like. The three young female friends were going to Kirov, the famous city with a long history, which was called Vjatka before the war. The main castle of the *Order of Fire* was situated in Kirov, but the young women were not welcome guests there. Attempts were made to intercept them. But they had come to this place in order to become leaders of a resistance movement against the abovementioned organization, which kept all the nearby lands under its control.

“I don't know what you think about it, but it's a great honour for me to help those who need our help,” said Galita, the red-haired beautiful young woman, Dmitry's former girlfriend.

“The *Order of Fire* terrorizes all these people, and we should stop it,” agreed Ditta, the young woman with black hair.

“This Order is situated rather far from Zondon. The people here are in trouble. That is why Queen Abellin decided to send her troops here with a view of liberating the place,” said Gamma, a blonde young woman, giving a short account of what happened.

“It will be very nice, if we would manage to capture the city, a place of strategic importance. In this case Zondon will be able to control the situation not only in this region, but also in the neighbouring lands,” said Galita. And the car she drove continued its way to the north.

“Let's hope we will have an uneventful travel to Kirov, since this land is under the control of our troops,” reminded Ditta.

“There's nothing to worry about. The *Order of Fire* got so scared when they saw our army, that no one has even heard from them for a number of days,” said Gamma and she opened wider the window of their red sport car.

“Of course, it would be great to liberate all the lands. But we should start with the *Order of Fire*,” said Ditta.

“But I still can't understand why Queen Abellin has declared war on the *Order of Elements*, and not on the *Order of Inquisitions*?” said Gamma.

“Maybe she has decided to make use of this surprise, since the *Order of Fire* couldn't even expect that we would attack them,” said Galita

“After defeating the *Order of Elements*, the Queen is going to turn them into our allies, in order not to be alone in the fight against the *Order of Inquisitions*,” said Ditta.

“I hope that some day *West Inquisition* will as well come over to our side, because this is what their people want most of all,” said Gamma.

Our heroines have just passed Jaransk, a town with numerous churches. They continued their way towards north to Kirov.

“The point of our destination is quite far from here. If we are fortunate, by evening we will have reached it,” said Galita and she pushed on the accelerator.

“We have already travelled a long way, so we won’t be bullied by this,” said Ditta and she rested head on the back of the chair.

“Have you expected anything else? Thank your lucky star, for the fact that we have already done more than a thousand kilometres, and we have not encountered any ambushes,” Gamma corrected them.

“Right, it’s not the simplest of all possible tasks, is it?” said Ditta.

“I feel it in my heart, that very soon it will come the day when we’ll become famous. Finally, we have been given such an important task. The magic world will change very soon. And we will be in the thick of the actions,” said Gamma.

“As far as I can remember, never before have we been put in charge of an entire army. I am looking forward to try my hand in this new activity,” said Galita.

“Zondon has sent a very large army here, to the Kirov region. Very soon a great battle will take place here. And we should join it,” said Galita and she turned up the music.

“Unlike the army of *the Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements*, Zondon army consists of professionals. Even though it isn’t a very large number of specialists,” said Ditta.

“What is more, all the magic states are on our side. They are ready to help us. We don’t have to help them,” Gamma evaluated the situation.

“If we have to join the battle. We will have to. And we’ll do it without delay,” said Ditta.

“In theory, Zondon army should raze the *Order of Fire* to the ground, since their army is a bit smaller than ours. In addition, they are poorly armed,” said Gamma.

“If we want to defeat the *Order of Fire*, the main thing for us is not to waste even a single moment. Since if we don’t hurry, the *Northern Inquisition*, for example, may redeploy its troops to help them. Therefore, it will be more difficult for us to besiege the fortress,” said Ditta.

“What an interesting deal. Despite all the threats, it’s we who begin the war, because our enemies don’t need it. They have everything they need. They are just unwilling to lose power,” stressed Galita.

“It’s not we, who started the war. They have captured our land. We simply want to get it back,” Ditta corrected her friend.

“The *Order of Inquisitions* doesn’t need a war. They are already winners, and will definitely not be the first to attack, because they are scared of being toppled,” said Gamma.

“If past experience is any guide, they are ready to put up with the fact that we exist. But they won’t like to lose ground. And they’ll use violent means,” said Galita.

“The problem is that we disrupt their rule. They want to bring us, a step down,” said Ditta.

“To be more precise, we disrupt their theft. That’s all they do. They don’t care about the rest of the people,” said Gamma.

In the evening, the car with our heroines approached the headquarters, on the outskirts of Kirov, where the numerous Zondon soldiers were impatiently waiting for them.

The night before, Zondon troops reached the place with almost no resistance, and have already dug in their positions.

From that very moment the *Order of Fire* could no longer demand its rights. But still, the army of the Good should raze to the ground the army of the Evil before someone comes to their relief. The sooner they do it, the better it is. Otherwise it will be hard to win the place back.

“It was wonderful that our travel to Kirov was uneventful,” said Galita, who drove the car into Zondon Headquarters. She stopped in front of the white main building.

“To all appearances, the leaders of the *Order of Fire* got such a fright that they didn’t even venture to ambush us,” said Ditta and she stepped out of the car.

“We haven’t met even a single warrior of the *Order of Fire* on the way here, whereas previously they were at every corner,” said Gamma, and she walked to the white main building where the black and red Zondon flag was hanging clearly to be seen.

“Hello, you are welcome. Zondon army is ready for action,” a merry, plump, elderly general came to meet the heroines. He had prepared to welcome the guest beforehand.

“I’d rather prefer that you relax, and tell us how are you. In addition you could show us the camp. We want to make sure that everything is ready for the tomorrow’s battle,” said Galita.

“We are so tired after the trip. We drove more than a thousand kilometres, and would like to rest a little, before we start the fight,” said Ditta.

“For the next twelve hours you are the commanding officers. But please, don’t do anything reckless, without our knowledge,” warned Gamma.

“Thanks a lot. Be sure, I won’t let you down,” the general reassured our heroines.

“I see you have settled in quite well. You have even dug trenches,” said Galita as she evaluated the situation, while inspecting the camp.

“But we still need to check our weapons. We should see whether these are fit for fighting,” said Gamma.

“I think that this area is rather well sheltered. We can spend the night here without any fear,” said Ditta.

“And here is the hospital. The way it looks, there aren’t too many patients. Zondon troops have managed to get to the city without meeting any resistance,” said Galita and she cast a glance through the hospital’s windows.

“I wonder where the canteen is. I’d like to see how the soldiers are being fed here. One can’t fight properly on an empty stomach,” said Ditta.

“There it is! And this is the soldiers’ menu. I hope the food given to them, is as good as it’s stated on this list,” said Gamma.

“Let’s go. I’ll show you to your rooms. You really need to take some rest. And tomorrow with renewed vigour, we will all together go and seize the fortress of the *Order of Fire*,” said the general changing the subject.

After our heroines had come back to the headquarters, they went to the first floor, opened the door and found themselves in a modestly furnished room. There wasn’t a single soul besides them, at that moment. Further down the corridor, there was a bedroom, where the young women were supposed to spend the night.

“The conditions don’t appeal to me. They gave us such a small room, so we won’t stay long here,” sniffed Galita.

“On the other hand, there are Zondon flags hanging at every corner. As if it’s impossible to live without these little flags,” commented Gamma.

“Well, we can spend a night here. It seems to me that we’ve been provided with all we need. Still, we can’t stay here for a long time,” said Galita.

“I find it a good idea, to continue fighting tomorrow, not today. I really doubt that someone can prevent us from getting into the castle of the *Order of Fire*,” said Galita.

“Right. *The Order of Fire* got so scared when they saw our troops, that they don’t even dare to show their faces,” said Gamma.

“Very good. Let them tremble with fear one more night. And their death will inevitably come tomorrow,” smiled Galita, who was looking forward to take revenge on the rascals from the *Order of Fire*.

“Still it would be better if we took those positions today,” said Ditta. She came to the window and bowed her head.

“Listen, it’s not only you that is tired. The army is worn off as well, after the long battles. I think that proper rest, will do everybody only good,” Gamma protected herself as well as the others.

“We are taking the field tomorrow. So that’s that. Let’s change the subject,” said Galita.

“The time zips along so fast! It has just been summer, and now it’s already early autumn,” said Ditta. “We are lucky that the weather is still warm, just like in summer.”

“Right. I don’t fancy dying on such wonderful time of the year. We ought to be very careful,” said Gamma.

“I am twenty eight. I want to be around for a longer time. And you are, as far as I know, thirty two,” said Galita and she took off her brown leather-jacket.

“How terrible. I am already thirty-two. But still, I am too young to die,” said Ditta.

“Do you remember the old Zondon? What a marvellous place it was! But the new Zondon is even better,” said Gamma.

“And I remember that in my years, when I was a student, I used to make friends with Dmitry. To be honest, it has become a thing of the past,” said Galita.

“Right, Dmitry is a superstar nowadays. We are no match for him,” said Ditta.

“By the way, do you miss Dmitry? You used to be such a wonderful couple,” said Gamma.

“Maybe a little. The same as you two miss Neon and Leagun. We were fated to spend a part of our life together. But we came at crossroads. We are mature enough, and we understand the situation perfectly well,” answered Galita.

“Neon and I, as well as Gamma and Leagun, have experienced the same. And we also had nothing else to do, but to break up,” sighed Ditta.

“Your love story was wonderful. What a pity, that at the time, no one except for a few of those initiated, knew that Dmitry was the privileged one. And we even laughed at his claims about who he was. By the way, in the end it turned out that he was right, and we were wrong,” finished Gamma.

* * *

Zondon army met no resistance. It made its way to the castle of the *Order of Fire*. Even the civilians, scared by the forthcoming changes, remained indoors.

“I feel it in my heart, that very soon everything will be different here. Zondon troops should in this or that way, crush down the enemy army,” said Ditta. She was sitting in one of the armoured personnel carriers, together with her friends. She was commanding the troops.

“It’s great that we have already cleared the final plan for tomorrow’s battle,” said Ditta and she cast a glance at the paper on the table once again.

“First of all we should blow up all the towers. The most dangerous devices are placed there. Only after that shall we attack the gate,” said Gamma.

“Don’t forget that there’s another gate on the opposite side. And we should prevent the leaders of the *Order of Fire* from using it or some other tunnels, when they’ll try to escape,” said Ditta.

“That was an accurate observation! Our main goal is not to let them run away. We want to win a victory with minimum of losses,” said Galita.

“Who knows? This very day might be the last day of our life. Or maybe this is the day when we will become famous,” said Ditta.

“All the roads from Kirov are under constant surveillance. I really doubt that the people we want to catch will manage to escape. What is more, we have reports coming regularly from our intelligence that they are still here,” said Galita.

“So, all our army should do, is to act quickly, and be well-coordinated, in order not to let even a single leader of the *Order of Fire* slip through the net,” said Ditta. And she put on her head some oversized headphones, with a microphone positioned in front of her mouth.

“We should participate ourselves in the catching of the leaders of the *Order of Fire*, to make sure the operation is carried out successfully,” said Gamma, and she tightened her belt.

“This matter doesn’t come into question. It’s us, who are the most interested in this victory,” said Ditta.

“I’ll say that this battle will bring us fame. After that, new people will take control of the *Order of Fire*. And Zondon will get a new ally,” said Galita.

“Let’s hope everything will be all right,” said Gamma.

Zondon’s army stopped near the castle of the *Order of Fire*, which was covered with graffiti, depicting red flames. Zondon’s battalions were prepared to attack. The infantry division, the tank division and Army Paratroopers Corps, were given air cover by the Zondon’s planes and helicopters. Zondon’s troops were ready to strike a crushing blow.

The odds were in Zondon’s favour. They had more soldiers and more weapons. Just before the attack, Zondon gave the *Order of Fire* one more chance to surrender. But there wasn’t any answer. The defenders of the city had been brainwashed that they are invincible. They were oblivious at the great danger they were in. They simply opened fire using armour-piercing shells.

In a few seconds dozens of Zondon warriors were killed, and hundreds were wounded. The army that had come to liberate the city had no option but to shoot back, and attack at once. This time it was going to be a battle where brothers had to kill brothers. Only few were in the ranks of the officers, who pulled the strings. The majority of were followers.

“The infantry: take cover! Tanks: Fire!” shouted Galita giving orders as fast as she could.

“I order Zondon’s planes to start bombing the castle,” commanded Ditta.

“Descend! Get ready! Fire!” shouted Gamma.

“The planes have just bombed the castle of the *Order of Fire*,” Galita reported to her two friends.

“Perfect! I believe that by the time the fog lifts, the tanks will have reached unnoticed, where they were supposed to be, and get them by surprise,” said Ditta as she expressed her joy.

“Attention to the pilots! Fly your fighter jets over the castle, and blow away the castle’s back gate,” shouted Gamma on the radio waves, to the pilots in the air.

“It’s likely that the back-gate of the castle is more solid than we’ve been told. But don’t worry. If this gate is reinforced a bit extra, then there must be other spots, not so well protected. So I can easily redeploy a number of my tanks. Your auxiliaries will be very soon near the walls, being protected by my tanks,” said Galita.

“We are a team. We should stay together. No one else can provide us assistance,” said Gamma.

“Hurrah! My auxiliary forces are already near the back gate! Thank you for your help,” said Ditta.

“That’s good. I hope you will come to my relief when I need it,” said Gamma.

“By the way, who will command the infantry? It’s about time we made a decision,” said Ditta.

“This is not the time to think about it. I suggest that we share our duties. Each of us will be responsible for a part of the army. But we should support each other.

Otherwise it’s useless,” said Galita.

The fighting was spreading. Even though no one had come to help the army of the *Order of Fire*, it turned out to be tougher than it had been thought. It was getting harder for Zondon’s troops to resist the enemy. The plan was, to capture the fortress in the shortest time possible. But the battle took longer than expected. And our heroines were beginning to realize, that they would be very lucky, if they would manage just to capture the castle.

“Not everything goes as planned. We can’t perform our task. I have to call for reinforcements from the troops of the *Zondon Inquisition*. At this moment they should stop wasting time,” said Galita.

“I think it’s a good idea. Help won’t do us any harm. On the other hand, it won’t be Zondon’s exclusive victory,” Ditta expressed her opinion.

“Stop playing dumb! Are you willing to lose this fight? Have all our fighters been killed? Hurry up and call for reinforcement, otherwise I’ll do it,” Gamma tried to make the other two women change their mind.

“The infantry and the tanks: fire on the right flank!” ordered Galita.

“I don’t like it. There’s something wrong here,” Ditta smelled a rat.

“It seems to me that the reports of our intelligence are wrong. I am not going to listen to them any more,” Gamma agreed with her.

“Do you really doubt that we will capture the fortress? I haven’t expected that from you,” said Galita.

“Of course not! We are here to win, not to suffer a defeat,” said Ditta.

“If we don’t capture the castle, we will be disgraced throughout the magic world, and it will probably be the end of Zondon. The future of the *magic world* depends on whether we capture this fortress,” said Gamma.

“It’s our duty to capture the castle of *the Order of Fire*, before *the Order of Inquisitions* send their troops,” said Galita.

“As soon as the army of the *Order of Inquisitions* will be here, the fortress will become impregnable, and we will be unable to do anything,” said Ditta.

“It was the right decision to attack the *Order of Elements* first, and surprise them,” said Gamma.

“This war was inevitable. If the *Order of Inquisitions* and *the Order of Elements* were the first to strike, we might have suffered a lot more losses,” said Ditta.

“The troops of the Zondon Inquisition are finally here. You can’t even imagine how happy I am to see them,” Galita sighed with relief.

“Let’s hope that together with them, we will perform better,” said Ditta.

“Their castle is solid built, indeed. I would even hate to destroy it. But we have no choice,” Gamma changed the subject.

“Be careful with your words. We are here to liberate the place, not to ruin everything,” said Galita.

“And whether the castle escapes destruction depends on how long *the Order of Fire* is willing to fight,” said Ditta.

“We have been given a task, and we are to perform it, because it determines a great deal. It includes the future of the people who live here,” said Gamma.

“That’s true. And we should take seriously everything that takes place,” said Galita.

Finally, the *Zondon Inquisition* troops came to relieve the *Zondon Army*, and the situation began to improve.

“Good strategy, isn’t it?” stressed Galita, after looking at the TV monitor.

“That’s because we had air support,” Ditta paid her attention to the facts.

“That’s all very good. But air support might in some cases be dangerous for our own troops,” noticed Gamma.

“And the gunners are also extremely useful. To be honest, we would never pull through without them,” said Galita.

“What’s the matter? It’s not as bad as it seems. Only few of our soldiers were killed and wounded. We can continue fighting without any trouble,” said Ditta.

“Well, you are right. We have nothing to complain about. But I still feel sorry for those who have been killed or wounded, both friends and foe,” said Gamma.

“We also mourn over the victims. But what is done cannot be undone. We ought to be more careful in the future,” said Galita.

“My troops have totally destroyed the south-west tower. And the soldiers on the right flank can now move ahead,” said Ditta, who brought good news.

“It would be perfect, if we could get rid of their snipers,” said Gamma.

“Right, they pose quite a threat. There are too many of them. We won’t be able to move ahead until we liquidate them,” said Galita.

“They have done really well! They alone have managed to organize quite an impressive resistance,” Ditta praised her enemies.

“But you haven’t mentioned how much it cost them. I wouldn’t like to get into the shoes of this fortress’s defenders,” Gamma corrected her.

The storming of the castle continued. The castle of *the Order of Fire* was about to fall apart. The number of those killed and wounded was constantly increasing. Still, the battle was flaring up.

“The leaders of the *Order of Fire* have so firmly established themselves in their under-ground bunkers. At the moment, we are unable to go after them, and capture them. I feel sorry for them since the battle began,” said Galita.

“They don’t give a damn about us. All they are concerned about is their own skin. That’s why they are fighting so desperately,” explained Ditta.

“Anyway, they are nearly exhausted. And they won’t hold out very long,” claimed Gamma.

“But still, nothing prevents them from continuing with their resistance till the last defender is dead. And then we will be blamed for being cruel,” said Galita.

“I wish our army was inside the castle! I am looking forward to being one of those who will capture the leaders of the *Order of Fire*,” said Ditta.

“Both the army and us are doing our best to win,” said Gamma.

“Still, the hardest times are behind us. And the most interesting times are ahead,” Galita tried to set everyone’s minds to rest.

“We have sent all the reserves long ago. There’s nowhere to get the extra fighters from. That’s why we ought to be very careful about what we do,” Ditta warned everybody.

“Nevertheless, we will undoubtedly capture the fortress, since we have been provided with plenty of weapons and soldiers,” explained Gamma.

“Hurrah! Our army has finally surrounded the castle. That’s great progress on the way to a victory. It means that all we are doing is right,” said Galita.

“The victory isn’t coming easily to us. I used to think that we would capture the castle a lot faster,” said Ditta.

“There’s nothing complicated in this world. There are only stupid people. We ought to sort everything out, and then we will be successful,” said Gamma.

“I guess you are right,” Galita agreed with her friend.

“For some reason, it’s a lot harder to attack, than to hold the lines. Right?” wondered Ditta.

“I wouldn’t say so. For example, the *Order of Inquisitions* began to master the art of self-defence just forty years ago. Only after they had suffered great losses. They became a lot weaker. Before that, they were capable of waging war only within the territory of their opponents. And when they were attacked, they were taken by surprise. So you should know well, how to defend yourself,” Gamma gave a detailed answer.

“Hold on to your hat. You, the leaders of the *Order of Fire*! Your time has come! And very soon we will meet face to face!” shouted Galita.

“I’m afraid you have already lost the fight. And you will no longer be able to stay on the side of the *Order of Fire* and the *Order of Inquisitions*,” said Gamma.

“Very soon everything will be completely different. And you may no longer consider yourselves to be a part of the *Order of Elements*,” said Ditta.

Finally, the *Army of Light* has managed to blow away the main gate of the castle. As soon as the fog had lifted, the armies of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* rushed into the new gap. Galita, Ditta and Gamma got out of their APC, and they joined the attacking army. They rushed inside with the others. The main thing for them at that very moment was not to let the leaders of the *Order of Fire* disguise themselves in the costumes of *Zondon* warriors and escape. If the young women manage to arrange the affair, they will be the winners at last.

“We know that the leaders of the *Order of Fire* are still here. If we want to intercept them, we ought to work as a single unit,” said Galita.

She didn’t even manage to get to the top of the staircase. This was further divided into two parts. One led to the right, the other led to the left. The attackers have suddenly met with desperate resistance. The enemy soldiers filled all the space around them. The *Army of Light* could move ahead no more.

“Take out your bayonets. Throw yourselves into the battle,” Ditta ordered immediately. She raised the sword over her head.

“Prove to us that *Zondoners* are the best in handling arms of the last resort,” shouted Gamma. She was the first to join *Zondon*’s ordinary soldiers.

“I haven’t fought for ages. Let’s help our soldiers,” Galita touched the handle of her sword.

“Stop! What are you doing? There are many of them. They can cope without us. We aren’t here to kill the soldiers of the *Order of Fire*. We are here to bring down its leaders. You’re setting a bad example. And surviving soldiers will be very useful for us. Very soon they will be *Zondon*’s allies,” Ditta stopped her.

“Nevertheless, we have already killed many soldiers, but we haven’t yet captured even a single leader of the *Order of Fire*,” said Gamma.

“It won’t last for good. The army of the *Order of Fire* is almost completely defeated. We will busy ourselves with its leaders very soon,” said Ditta.

“Nonetheless, they continue to resist. And we haven’t even seen the leaders of the *Order of Fire* yet,” said Galita.

“Let’s stop talking about unpleasant things. We are already inside the castle. And there’s only one little hitch left,” said Gamma.

“By the way, I have something good to tell you. The armies of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* have just blown up the extra gate, and they got inside. So things are not that bad. What is more, the fight over balconies and towers is continuing outside. These are two wonderful spots to attack from,” said Ditta.

“How wonderful it is, that the fighter planes and helicopters are at our disposal. I can’t even imagine how we would do without them,” said Galita.

“Next time we will be going to attack. Let’s say that the *Order of Air*, reminds me to ask for some more of this brand of new equipment,” said Gamma.

The enemy soldiers, who were defending the main hall with the staircase leading to the left and to the right, were no longer able to hold the battle line. They had to retreat, to establish themselves in the narrow and curved corridors, and cover everything with their bodies.

“Finally we are on the first floor. Did you think this possible?” said Galita, who together with the others, continued to press forward deeper into the castle.

“We’ve done a great job so far. All we have to do, is capture the leaders of the *Order of Fire*,” said Ditta, while she pictured secretly in her mind, how she will capture her enemies.

“There are so many dead bodies around. I’m afraid we will soon have to walk on them,” noticed Gamma.

Danger was waiting for them at every turn. The defeated army of the *Order of Fire* was shooting from everywhere. Nevertheless, *Zondon*’s troops continued their way deeper into the building, at the same time destroying the evil army.

“I hope that we have chosen the right way, and that very soon we will be at the headquarters of the *Order of Fire*, said Galita in an manner, which showed that she was interested.

“Let me see,” said Ditta, who has started spreading the map of *the Order of Fire*. All of a sudden an enemy bullet was heard. It punched a hole in the map. It hit the wall. It missed its target, just by a few millimetres.

“It’s quite a big hole! A few millimetres to the right, and the outcome might have been completely different,” said Gamma, who looked through the rip in the paper.

“I am sorry. I didn’t do it on purpose. Why have I decided to ask such a question?” said Galita, who started making excuses.

“Do you want me to follow you? Do you me to die? Please, don’t do this again,” said Ditta.

“Forgive her. She didn’t want the situation to develop that way. She will never do it again!” Gamma reassured her friend.

“I wonder if there are any major ambushes waiting for us,” Galita tried to change the subject.

“We’ll wait and see. There’s no point in guessing. Anyway, the *Order of Fire* is already defeated,” and Ditta recharged her guns.

“I think we will at most get into one ambush. The *Order of Fire* is unlikely to put much resistance,” answered Gamma.

“I’ve got the latest news. Zondon troops have just managed to occupy all the balconies and towers. And the last thing to do, is to bring all our armies together,” said Galita.

“Well done. What can I say? I couldn’t even imagine that the castle of *the Order of Fire* is so beautiful,” said Ditta.

“They have been showing off too much. And in the end they are the first to fall. And everyone who go against Zondon, will suffer the same fate,” said Gamma. The heroines could already see the abovementioned headquarters ahead of them. But a group of experienced, well-equipped, and privileged guards from the *Order of Fire* challenged the advancing Zondon army. It was the last defending line, which the crushed evil army has managed to put together.

“And here are the privileged ones. Soon we shall see the leaders of the *Order of Fire* themselves coming to us with their hands up. It means I have chosen the right way,” said Galita expressing her joy.

“I am looking forward to take prisoners. The *Order of Fire* already had its day. Anyway, this fighting cannot last forever!” said Ditta and she hurried everybody.

“But we shouldn’t kill its leaders. If we do, there won’t be anybody to interrogate,” warned Gamma.

“How nice that a greater part of the castle is already controlled by our troops. I can’t believe that we have already captured almost the entire fortress. I am so happy that we were given this task. It’s one more step, to the unification of all the estranged realms,” said Ditta.

“The privileged guards of the *Order of Fire* are fighting perfectly well. I wonder where have they mastered such skills?” said Galita.

“There are not more than ten of them left. Very soon they will be wiped out. It will be all over,” said Gamma.

“There’s a very big hall behind that door. Our troops are waiting for us over there. We are fated to get together very soon,” said Galita. Her shot hit the target. Therefore, the last resisting soldier was killed.

“Let’s call it a day,” said Gamma. She threw a couple of grenades at the closed door, and he stepped aside together with the others.

“It’s about to go off,” Gamma closed her ears in the nick of time, a second before the grenades exploded.

As soon as Galita, Ditta and Gamma's group had entered the main hall of the *Order of Fire*, they join up the rest of the army, who had come there through the back gate, the balconies and the towers.

After the merger, it was impossible to stop the troops. The *Order of Fire* was obviously defeated. They haven't selected this place, to have the last fight, for nothing.

"It's all over. The *Order of Fire* has suffered a complete defeat. Our troops have just set up the Zondon flag at the top of the castle," Galita communicated the latest news. Meanwhile, Zondon's army continued its way. They apprehended the leaders of the defeated order. Many of them had tried to put some resistance in the castle's corridors.

"Their leaders are already in our hands. You see? There was nothing to worry about," said Ditta. She looked at their enemies being tied up, and taken away for interrogation. She knew that not all of them would survive, after that.

"That's nothing. We haven't reached the top yet," Gamma waved her hand.

"According to the intelligence reports, the ruler of the *Order of Fire* and his family are at the moment in the next room. They are unable to escape," said Ditta.

"I wish we were in that very room. We could sort everything out," said Gamma.

"I wonder how will he accept defeat," said Ditta.

"Look! The Commander-in-Chief of the *Order of Fire* army, disguised in Zondon's uniform, is trying to escape," noticed Galita and she stood in his way.

"Let me go! Get lost! You, Zondoners, you don't know what you are doing. You simply subdue our country. Our army can't do anything without any help," said the Commander-in-Chief of the *Order of Fire*, and he pulled out a sharp knife.

"Why are you so impolite today? You're so rude to everyone present," said Ditta. And she recharged her gun.

"Where are you going wearing Zondon's uniform?" said Gamma. She pushed her rival towards the wall.

"Is it true? Are all the killings, and wounded soldiers, your doing?" asked Galita.

"Zondon's deeds will result in apocalypse," uttered the leader of the *Order of Fire*.

"The point is, that these words are pronounced by a woman, who has lost all her power. And is guilty of genocide," Ditta passed a sentence.

"Well, let's put an end to this," said Gamma. She shot the defeated Commander-in-Chief, with her friend's gun. She used an entire cartridge clip to do it. After the shooting was over, the previously beautiful body was reduced to bits. The human being, who had just been alive, it was no more. It was torn to pieces, and it was lying in the centre of the wonderful hall in a pool of blood. It was just human remains. Such is war. It's no wonder, that God had offered a place in heaven to anyone who is able to make peace.

"We're getting towards the end of it," said Galita. With her at the helm, Zondon's troops continued their way. By that moment the *Order of Fire* was defeated for good. The only audible sounds were the sounds of single shoots in the corridors.

"This is where all the orders came from," noticed Ditta as they were passing by a white gothic-styled hall, where the *Order of Fire* headquarters used to be located.

“It must have been a beautiful place, but now it’s completely ruined,” said Gamma, who tried not to step on broken glass.

“How wonderful that today another evil force has been annihilated. That’s a momentous event. It’s definitely worth celebrating,” said Ditta.

“I am fond of celebrations, especially when there’s a good reason for it. Recently we have been celebrating too much without any reason,” said Gamma.

“It would be perfect to celebrate this or that event, no more than once in five years. And the rest of the years, use the same dates for some other holidays. Otherwise it’s becoming less meaningful,” said Ditta.

“Don’t you think you are carried away by this conversation? By the way, the leader of the *Order of Fire* and his family are straight behind this door,” said Galita.

“Is it that very large steel door? And why are there no guards?” said Ditta.

“The point is that it has been locked from the outside, and you can’t open it from the inside,” explained Gamma.

“Well, if we have no keys, we will have to force our way in,” said Galita, and she threw a number of grenades at the door. She hid behind the corner together with the rest of the soldiers.

“I can’t wait until I meet face to face the leader of the *Order of Fire*,” said Ditta, who was the first to start the conversation after the explosion.

“I hope that our expectations were not useless, and the leader of the Order of Fire is still behind this door,” said Gamma after the smoke had completely dispersed. Galita, Ditta, Gamma and their army broke into the leader’s apartments, pushing aside all obstructions. They were greatly amazed, when in one of the halls they found the leader of the *Order of Fire* together with his family. His red-haired wife was dressed in white clothes. His children were in the room too. Two of them were boys.

“It’s all over,” uttered the defeated leader, with a sad voice. He was called *Fire* in honour of the element.

“What’s happening here?” asked Galita. She couldn’t believe her eyes.

“We have just been locked in this room. We’ve spent the whole week here,” said *Fire*’s wife. Her name was *Fire Lady*. One can get such a name only after becoming the leader’s wife.

“Weren’t you among those who resisted the Zondon troops?” Ditta wondered.

“At heart we have always been for Zondon. But we could do nothing because of the great influence of the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*. Your rivals knew we are on your side. That’s why they killed our privileged guards. And they’ve locked us here,” *Fire* bowed his head.

“You mean it was a conspiracy? I hope all you say is true. Otherwise you won’t be long in this world. At least, Zondon is interested in your declaration of guilt,” explained Ditta.

“Please, don’t kill us. We may be useful to you,” begged *Fire Lady*.

“If you are not guilty, and all you say is true, then it’s not point in killing you,” Galita reassured them.

“And I hope you have already caught the army’s Commander-in-Chief of the *Order of Fire*? It was she who used to be the informal leader here,” said *Fire*.

“Do you mean that rat, who threw at as a sharp knife? She is already dead, and her body is lying in the centre of the 25th hall in a pool of blood,” explained Ditta.

“It’s good that this appalling woman is dead. She has killed plenty of innocent people,” *Fire Lady* sighed with relief.

“If you want to remain the leaders of the *Order of Fire*, you will have to support Zondon. We will now bring the TV crew here. You will make a speech to the nation, stating that from now on, your organization is Zondon’s ally,” said Gamma briefly to *Fire* and to *Fire Lady*, explaining to them what they were supposed to say.

Zondon’s TV men entered the hall. They’ve quickly arranged the cameras. And they began to interview *Fire*, who was supposed to accuse the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements* of genocide, and to publicly drop out of their former alliance.

“I, the leader of the Order of Fire, together with my wife and our children, have the entire time been in captivity. I couldn’t participate in all the events that took place here, inside the organization, because I was the subject of a conspiracy. All my guards were killed, and I was taken prisoner. From now on, our Order will support exclusively Zondon and its allies. I call my people to forget about the alliance with the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*. They have done too much harm to continue backing them up. From now on we are a free organization. We are entitled to choose whom to support. We choose to support Zondon and its allies. Together we have experienced terrible things. We have lost our dearest and nearest. At last, the day has come. It will be a day marked forever in our memories, like a white stone. From now on, everything will be completely different,” promised *Fire*.

“Keep it up! It was quite a nice speech. And I hope there will soon be changes,” Galita praised him as soon as the cameras were off.

“He is doing his best,” added *Fire Lady*, as she finally felt safe.

“I find it wonderful that we are now allies. We haven’t been fighting for nothing,” said Gamma.

“Our numbers have increased today, which means that it will be easier to defeat the *Order of Inquisitions* and the *Order of Elements*,” concluded Gamma.

CHAPTER FIVE

WARSAW

As soon as Artborg, Kate, Kelly, Hezzord, Mennon, Griff, Miel and Selen crossed the border into Poland, the hunt for them stopped straight away. Troops of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* could not so easily operate now around the EU but they were still very close to their goal and their desire of being always able to send their agents here. The influence of the army of darkness could still be felt. It meant that our heroes weren't safe even now.

"Hurry up! We should at least get to Warsaw. It's a big city and I think that with us there, something bad is unlikely to happen," said Artborg.

Meanwhile they were part of the trouble.

"I also doubt that they might soon organize an ambush for us in the Polish capital," said Kate.

"Enemy agents are simply afraid to fight back. This city needs to be protected," explained Kelly.

"I'm the only one who knows how to speak Polish. I'll be your guide in this country," boasted Hezzord hinting at his ancestry.

"Well, it may be so, but I speak German perfectly, and I doubt that you can go further without my help," added Mennon.

"We haven't reached Germany yet. Oh, you can't even imagine how happy I'll be, when I'll meet his countrymen," sighed Griff.

"I know French, because my grandmother was French, and the language is so romantic," said Miel.

"I understand you perfectly well Griff, for I've learned French long ago, while I was away from home," explained Selen.

"It's great that we have eight people in our squad. This means that not every group of special agents will try to challenge us," said Artborg.

"It's great that Griff, Miel and Selen joined us. Without them we could no longer cope with the job," explained Kate.

"It's frightening to imagine what would've happened to all of us, if you didn't come to our aid," added Kelly.

"Just because we are already in Poland, it doesn't mean it's good news," said Hezzord.

"We just have to refuel, so we can go ahead without trouble," agreed Mennon.

"I've finally managed to check the condition of our cars," said Griff as he crawled out from under the car.

"A good refuelling never hurts. We've spent a lot of fuel since we've left Belarus," reminded Miel.

"And here I am. I've quickly come back with two big canisters of safe drinking water," said Selen.

Finally, everything was ready for them to go further, and our friends started the engine, and they headed towards Warsaw.

“Most recently, Queen Abellin has told me, while talking through the magic link, that in the west of Poland it won’t be easy, because we’ll have to spend the night at the one of the Warsaw’s hotels, which was already reserved especially for us, but it’s bugged,” said Artborg.

“If we were in good physical shape, it will mean that on our entire stay, we will be able to organize a tour of all local attractions,” said Miel.

“I hope we get a good hotel in the heart of the city, because we deserve it,” said Selen.

“I think so too, because Queen Abellin is picking the hotel, so I have no doubts it will be a high standard one,” said Miel.

“It will be a five star hotel. It means that when we get out of our cars, we won’t be exactly wet in the rain,” said Selen.

“It doesn’t matter. All our cars are convertible. It’s true that the roof of our cars can shelter us from the rain, but a hotel is a lot better,” said Griff.

“In Belarus, and in the Baltic States, in the European countries too, or in West Europe, people are more relaxed,” said Selen.

“They are really good natured people. You can find out more about them, because now we fight on their turf,” said Miel.

“By the way, what are you going to see in Warsaw,” said Artborg turning to his friends.

“I love old castles. And I’m glad that here in Poland are many castles,” said Griff.

“I want to be sure that I visit the old city of Warsaw. It’s the main cultural centre,” said Selen.

“I hope we will be able someday to reach London and get that *magic wand*,” said Miel.

“Consider that it’s in our hands. With such good friends like Griff, Miel and Selen, we will win,” said Artborg.

“After all this time, this is the first day we will be able to lie down. You should bear in mind that we had so many hurdles,” said Griff.

“If we could, we ourselves will bring you this *wand*, no questions asked,” said Miel.

“It’s time for us to select a new keeper for the *Magic Wand*. We want to give it to you, since we no longer listen to the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*,” said Selen.

One hour later, three black 4WD convertibles were already in Warsaw. Our friends sighed with relief. They were safe at last.

“I have more news for you. We expect to stay one more night in the west of Poland, near Poznan,” has hinted Artborg.

“You want to say that we are still waiting for a meeting with Arhir and Barhir, who are the world most famous soothsayers? A meeting, where everybody knows everybody?” said Kate.

“We were their guests many times over the last decade. They always greeted us, as if we were royalty,” explained Kelly.

“I hope you will be glad to hear these news. I also have no doubt, that they are willing to help us,” said Griff.

“You know, we are already acquainted with the wives of Arhir and Barhir. And this is helpful,” explained Miel.

“I wonder how will they feel about this meeting. We come without warning, after all this time,” said Selen.

“Why should we tell them beforehand that we’re coming? They can predict the future better than we do,” explained Hezzord.

“We have a good reason to see them, without asking for a rendezvous. We could never be sure who else might be there with them,” said Mennon.

“What do you mean? They’re always glad to see us. I don’t think they resent the fact that we don’t tell them that we will come,” has noticed Artborg.

“Yet who would contradict the fact that Arhir and Barhir are fine astrologers? Many people couldn’t avoid what these two have predicted for them,” explained Kate.

“No one is arguing with this. And yet they put in practice such techniques, which no one had previously heard of,” said Kelly.

“At home they have nothing but wires, gadgets, pills, various liquids, and books. But at the same time, they are such nice people. One is pleased in their company,” said Griff.

“Unlike you, when I’ve been away, I’ve spent many times in their company, times I simply can’t forget,” admitted Miel.

“Despite the fact that Arhir and Barhir are very famous people. We shouldn’t fear that they wouldn’t take notice of us. They interest us,” said Hezzord.

“Above all, they are also great magicians. They are able to create such illusions in life you can’t tell these are just magic,” summed Mennon.

Our friends drove their cars to the centre of Warsaw, in few minutes. When they got out of their cars, one of our heroes had a video camera in his hands.

“As soon as we go across the Vistula River, into the old town, we have time to stop and take a walk,” Artborg said to the others.

“Wow, check out the castle. It’s perched on that hill. I bet it’s magic,” said Hezzord.

“I like this place. I’ve lived in the main square, in one of the biggest houses, said Mennon.

“Look ahead. I think you’ll enjoy it,” said Vulture.

“It can’t be the same Church of St. Anne. This is what I really like to see,” said Miel.

“I’m interested in anything connected to the name John. It was given to me at birth,” said Vulture.

“When you walk through the old Warsaw town, it seems like you get in touch with the past, only that it has the present details,” said Miel.

“I don’t know what happened there in the west of Poland. Why aren’t we allowed to leave this city today?” said Hezzord.

“What don’t you like about this city?” said Artborg. “It isn’t bad at all to spend one extra day in the Polish capital city. After all, if we want to successfully reach our goal, we simply must take time and rest. It’s important to have the ability to recover our strength, after each conflict.”

“The thing is that we are on a mission. The sooner we’ll do what we have to do, the fewer the people that Zondon will lose,” said Hezzord.

“And if we can’t cope with this task, and we won’t realize our goal. Zondon will waste a lot of time. Therefore, we can’t afford any hasty steps,” said Artborg.

“We are not allowed to leave this city today. And we will spend the night here. Once Queen Abellin gave us such an order, she must know better what is going on. While we’re on the job, we’d better not know all the fine details. That is to protect our mission, in case one of us might fall into enemy’s hands,” said Griff.

“If only we could get to this staff. It starts to get me mad,” said Artborg.

“You say it with such conviction. We are still only at the beginning of our journey. And we still have to drive and drive. Germany, France and United Kingdom are still ahead of us,” said Griff.

“And here is the famous Vistula River, of which we talked a while ago. Warsaw is built on its banks,” said Artborg.

“Let’s have something to eat. In few hours the fun starts. And we will soon be the target,” said Hezzord.

With their cars parked in a secure parking site, our friends, equipped with a video camera, continued their walk through the city. The trees were shedding their leaves. It was a sign that autumn had arrived, despite the fact that the pavement on the street was still hot.

“This weather is the end result of global warming. Now we have warm winters and cool summers, late autumns and late springs. If it continues like that, one day the polar caps will melt,” said Artborg.

“Increasing few degrees of the average temperature, can cause irreversible damage,” agreed Hezzord.

“Global warming, which is caused by emissions and pollutants, is a big problem. All countries have to address this,” sighed Mennon.

“We came here to see the tourist attractions of the old Warsaw city, not to speak of the global warming,” said Kate.

“It’s certainly a very interesting topic. I strongly agree with you about global warming. But this is no time to talk about it,” Kelly expressed her opinion.

“Then, this is the whole problem. People don’t want to give this issue the time it deserves,” Mennon opened the other’s eyes.

“See King Sigismund’s statue. It stands opposite the Royal Castle?” said Miel.

“And here I am,” said Selen, back from a nearby shop. He brought with him a whole box of ice cream.

“We didn’t notice you’re gone. By the way, where did you buy all this?” asked Artborg, although he knew the answer.

“Are you walking away from us? Do you enjoy every time we talk about things worthy of note?” said Hezzord. He slapped Selen on the shoulder in a friendly way.

“Griff and Miel knew that someone will do this stint on the job,” said Mennon. “Here, almost all the buildings are from the 17th and 18th centuries. When one visits this place, it’s like he or she plunges into another world,” Kate shared her feelings with the others.

“I experience similar feelings. I also like old buildings. But the main attraction in any city are the people, who live there,” Kelly put it in plain words.

“Where should we go next? Who has any suggestions? The old city occupies a large part of Warsaw. And there are many things to see,” said Griff.

“I personally don’t want to stay in my room. I invite everyone to take a walk down the street, and get some fresh air,” said Miel.

“Well, we’ve done this. Now all we need is to find somewhere a place where we could eat. After this long walk, we should sit down and relax, and help ourselves to this ice cream I bought for you,” summed up Selen.

They’ve found quickly a local restaurant with Polish cuisine. After lunch they continued their stroll through the old town. Polish cuisine was largely similar to Russian cuisine, but a bit different.

“Nearby is the *Order of the Renaissance of the Catholic Jesuit Fathers*. Let’s take a look at its building,” said Artborg.

“Who are these *Jesuit Fathers*? How did they get to glory? I think I’ve heard something about them,” said Miel.

“It’s a religious Order of the *Roman Catholic Church*, known informally as the *Society of Jesus*,” said Selen.

“Do you think that this foundation exists today, or it has been left far behind?” said Miel.

“Of course it is. But it’s not as influential as it was before. One of its main slogans is that *the end justifies the means*. This is still on everyone’s lips,” said Hezzord.

“Let’s head towards the marketplace. There is something, we all like to see,” said Kelly.

“Here in the old city, many artists offer their work, because we are in the heart of Warsaw,” said Selen.

“This place offers a magnificent view of the city,” Griff immediately drew the attention of his colleagues, as soon as they arrived here.

“I also like the look at the city from this place. And I love to admire the beauty of the Gothic church, the walls, and the facades of the old houses,” said Kelly.

“Once upon a time, in these houses lived the prosperous burghers of Warsaw, who spared no money on something that would show itself in all its glory,” said Griff.

“Let’s buy some old paintings, done by the local painters,” said Artborg.

“Don’t forget that we are on the job. This should also be clear to our young women, who accompany us,” said Mennon.

“The next time we’ll come here as tourists. I’ll give you permission to buy as many paintings as you like, from this old city square of Warsaw,” said Artborg.

“It’s better to buy art objects from the castle. There will be many paintings and sculptures on offer,” said Kelly.

“It’s a good idea to have a property in every city. Did I say something wrong?” said Griff.

“Let’s walk quickly out of the old city. It will soon be dark,” said Griff.

“Why are you in such a hurry? Nothing bad can happen, if we walk an hour through the old town,” said Artborg.

“Good idea, but we have to check in, at the hotel. We’ve spent already five hours, and we are still in the old town. This is not a forsaken village. Right?” said Griff. By evening, our heroes were already in a posh five-star hotel in central Warsaw. There they got a penthouse.

“This is really spacious. It has five bedrooms. I hope we can spend the night safely,” said Artborg.

“Cool! There is even a sauna and Jacuzzi,” said Hezzord who carefully examined the entire penthouse.

“You know, I like it here. I would agree to stay here longer,” said Mennon.

“This penthouse is Queen Abellin’s choice for us. I bet she herself was in this hotel,” said Artborg

“We have already figured this out. It’s one of the best hotels in Warsaw,” explained Miel.

“If I’m not mistaken, I think we are in the *Presidential Suite*,” noticed Selen.

“For a long time we haven’t checked in, at such a high-class hotel. I’m glad that everyone of us is back to where we belong,” said Kate as she sat in a posh leather recliner.

“You know, I like the hotels furnished in European style. I feel at home in them,” said Artborg and he slowly dropped into the largest bed.

Someone knocked at the door. Then two hotel-attendants walked in, and they brought the dinner in the room.

“From a close distance the dinner looks very appetizing,” said Artborg and he praised the cuisine as soon as the attendants have left the room.

“It’s not dinner, if it’s not a real dinner. And I think everyone will enjoy it,” said Hezzord.

“May I finally sit down to a good meal? I’m hungry like a wolf,” said Mennon, who was wearing an apron, while he grabbed some meat dishes.

“I hope you didn’t forget about me,” said Griff as he entered the room several minutes late.

“And you forgot about me too. We were very busy with our job,” said Miel while getting away from his laptop.

“It’s not fair. We are one team, and we must do everything together,” complained Selen.

“Something easier, like that mud cake we baked,” remembered Kate.

“Or something like that cake and fruit salad, after dinner,” said Kelly.

But no one paid any attention. The next morning, our heroes got into their cars, and they've left the hotel. By midday they were approaching the outskirts of the Polish city of Poznan, where most likely were waiting for them Arhir and Barhir.

"I wonder if Arhir and Barhir would come to meet us, like we agreed," said Artborg.

"I think they'll be happy as usual, about our arrival. They love to see some guests in their home," said Kate.

"It's all clear. Our visit will be to them like a cold shower. After all, they should understand that this time we go to them not as tourists, and that we can give them as much trouble as our enemy agents would give them," said Kelly.

"Everyone knows that they are very respected under any circumstances. And no matter what, these guys will always welcome loyal friends with open arms. They'll help us sort out our problems. This would be a sign of friendship," said Griff.

"It isn't their style to treat us badly. They didn't anything bad to us. After all, we associate with them in a long relationship. We are all familiar with them for more than ten years, since they've just started their job. They appreciate the fact that during all this time we were on their side," said Kate.

"Just remember that Arhir and Barhir don't live in Poznan itself. They dwell in the suburbs to the west of the city. So we have to remember their exact address, no matter what," said Kelly.

"You don't need to worry. I have their address with me. However, even if I didn't have it, it wouldn't have mattered. All the residents of this town know where the famous Arhir and Barhir live. Poznan's citizens are proud of them," said Artborg.

"We've entered the city already and we've just drove past the Cathedral, the main attraction of this city," said Kate.

"Due to the fact that Polish and German armies had already knocked at every door in their search for the agents of the *Order of the Invisible* and *Order of the Poets*. We temporarily can't move further west. We will be forced to stay away from Arhir and Barhir," explained Artborg.

"When we'll visit Arhir and Barhir, it will be at the same time, for safety reasons. They are the best fortune-tellers in the world. They could provide us with interesting information, which will be useful in the outcome of our task," said Hezzord.

"Because, this information is necessarily to help us avoid troubles in the future," said Kelly.

"We might spend one extra day here, due to the unforeseen circumstances. But we will obtain the information, which we will simply use in the various ways during this assignment," said Artborg scratching the side of his neck.

"Let's think sensibly. This would stop a great number of agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* from dancing polka with German agents, while we can't do a thing.

I would prefer to spend the night visiting Arhir and Barhir too," said Hezzord.

"Last night in the west of Poland, was a scuffle. More than two enemy agents were killed in the end.

“It is certainly good news. But hundreds of enemy agents are now either in the west of Poland, or in the east of Germany. No one can find them. It’s shocking,” said Kate.

“In the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* the agents jump up and down to prove how good they are, so that everyone should be afraid of them. Unfortunately for them, they can’t fool anyone. So they are very annoyed about this. They were used to a different country, which had different borders and a different political system,” said Kelly.

As soon as three black 4WD cars drove out of Poznan, in front of their eyes appeared immediately a big timber house with a four-meter high fence, a tin roof. It had the same gate it had years ago, over which was chained a large sign with Latin script. On it was written: *The Cottage of Arhir and Barhir*.

“Here we are,” said Artborg as he got out of the car. The first thing he did, was to ring the bell, which was at the front of the cottage.

“Everyone should be ready. Our assignment begins,” Hezzord managed to alert his team at the last moment.

“Let’s go,” there was heard a deep and firm voice, which belonged to Artborg. A noise of walking feet was heard, that with every moment grew louder and louder. Finally a heavy bolt was heard, while the door had opened. Four astrologers appeared before their eyes. Two were men and two were women. They looked about the age of forty or so, and they wore sheepskin vests.

“We are glad to see you again. Please come in,” said Barhir and he invited Artborg’s team in his front yard.

“Thank you. You are always very friendly towards us. We appreciate it very much,” said Kate.

“This is a present for you,” said Kelley and she took out of her handbag a beautiful golden table clock, and she handed it in to Arhira, the wife of the first astrologer. “I bought this to Warsaw, especially for you,” said Kate and she gave Barhira a lovely scarf as present.

“Thank you very much,” said Arhira and Barhira at the same time, and they accepted the gifts.

Then going through the entire front garden, Artborg’s team had finally found themselves on the porch.

“Follow us. We had a feeling that you would come today. We laid the table especially for you,” said Barhir and he opened the door. Our heroes walked into the dining room, where in the centre was placed a huge dining table with freshly cooked food.

“I see you are not wasting any time. You’ve set the table for us. To be honest with you, we are very grateful for it,” said Griff.

“You can’t even imagine how happy we are. We find ourselves once again in your company, as your guests,” admitted Miel.

“We know that you are very tired from the road. Please, have a seat at the table, and make yourselves at home,” said Arhir to his guests.

“We have for you a lot of useful information. We’ll tell you soon,” said Barhir, who was a man taller than average, with dark brown hair.

“If you have some vital information, please feel free to tell us now, without waiting for a later time,” said Mennon.

“In any case, first tell us briefly, so we’ll be aware of the matter,” said Selen.

“Of course, we have important information for you. But we’ll have to tell you in detail, otherwise you wouldn’t understand,” said Arhir, who was a handsome man. In many ways he complemented Barhir.

“Take your time. We will have to show you to your rooms,” summed up Barhir. Our heroes followed Arhir and Barhir, and they’ve climbed up on a large flight of stairs to the second floor. They found themselves in a long corridor with many doors. Arhir gave them the keys to their rooms.

“The numbers on the keys correspond to the numbers on the rooms’ doors. You’re here already. Make yourselves comfortable,” said Arhir.

“We are waiting for you downstairs in fifteen minutes. Don’t be late. Your dinner will get cold. Just unpack your stuff, and come downstairs as soon as possible,” explained Barhir.

“If you don’t need any help, then we will leave you, so you can unpack your luggage. A bit of privacy is always welcomed,” said Arhir.

“As our guests, you are completely safe here. Just think that you are at home,” said Arhir.

“We only need few minutes, to unpack. You can wait for us here, and we’ll go back together,” said Artborg and he opened the door to his room.

“Every time I come here, I always wonder how do you keep your rooms spotless. And, the light in these rooms is so bright,” said Kate.

“I think they use old methods in new ways,” said Kelly quickly.

“I hope you enjoy your stay at my place,” said Arhir who was outside the next room.

“If you need something to bring, just tell them,” said Barhir, who walked in the second bedroom.

“Everything here is just great. We all like it very much,” said Griff thanking for the hospitality.

“I bet that your guest enjoy staying here, even more than staying in a luxury hotel,” admitted Miel.

“If you need any help whatsoever, just ring the bell. We will attend to it right away,” said Arhir.

“I hope you’re not upset with us, that we have offered you only these three rooms. The other rooms were already booked,” sighed Barhir.

“And here is our triple room,” said Hezzord while he sat on the bed.

“These rooms are big, and are well furnished. I think we can sleep the night in here,” said Mennon.

“I also liked these rooms, for the reason that were chosen wisely,” said Selen. Ten minutes later, our friends and Arhir and Barhir, sat at the dining table in the dining room. They talked about things they were interested in.

“You did the right thing. They decided to stop visiting us. If you wouldn’t have come, then eastern Germany would have been faced with serious problems,” began Arhir.

“Today, we have watched all day the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*,” admitted Barhir.

“Of course you saw them. Hundreds of enemy agents are in the heart of Europe. No one can find them,” said Artborg could not resist telling his thoughts.

“Here’s something, which is not right. I don’t like it at all,” said Hezzord.

“Polish and German magic armies are totally on your side. But even that we are clairvoyants, we still can’t say for sure where our enemy agents are. Everything is like fog moving in front of our eyes. We can’t see through that haze,” said Arhir with sadness in his voice.

“A big danger hangs over your heads. And this young man, Selen, is in mortal danger. By all means, take care of him. He is your best asset. Just be our guests so you won’t lose him. Here you are safe,” prophesied Barhir.

“We will do everything in our power to protect each other. Don’t worry about Selen. He will be OK,” said Kate.

“He is a great guy. We will do anything to come to his rescue if he needed it. You still don’t know what we are capable of,” said Kelly.

“I’m also very worried about the uncertainty of, where are our enemy agents right now. All we know is that they moved to the southeast. But this still has to be checked,” reported Arhir.

“Our army is so confused. They don’t know what to do. But to be honest, they aren’t ready yet for such a string of events. The magic European Union is just ears. Do you know that last night there was a battle not far from here? And today it’s still not clear,” Barhir began talking again.

“Do you think that the magic command troops breed traitors,” asked Griff.

“So far, the magical forces have been doing nothing but that,” Miel supported this topic.

“Anything can happen. But it’s just one of these rumours. And these rumours are over the top,” admitted Arhir.

“In fact, this problem is quite vague. For my part, I don’t really believe it to be true,” Barhir opened everyone’s eyes to the truth.

“It’s all logical. But what can we do, so we won’t fall into a trap,” asked Mennon.

“Recommend anything to us. There is still a long way ahead of us,” asked Selen.

“We see a life-threatening situation. It awaits you in the next few days. It’s a bad sign. And we can easily tell you about your future adventures in Germany, and the subsequent countries,” said Arhir.

“We also see that you will be able to pass through the whole of Germany without an incident. But when you’ll leave that country, you will encounter serious resistance.

As a result, the way to the west will be blocked for you. You have to find other ways, by changing your route,” predicted Barhir.

“What do you mean? We have to change route? Which way will we go?” asked Artborg

“Such drastic action can change our entire lives. What is going to happen to us?” asked Hezzord.

“You can easily solve this predicament. You’ll soon meet some of Zondon’s allies. They will help you to get back safely on right path. And then they will leave you,” Arhir reassured his friends.

“You must remember that at the moment, the situation is volatile. It all depends on what you are going to do. When you’ll reach France, you’ll get into a big ambush. But this time magic French troops will come to your rescue. They won’t do it so much for you, but to overpower their enemy agents, who are your rivals as well,” Barhir continued speaking.

“And what awaits us in England?” asked Kate.

Arhir and Barhir didn’t know the Russian language. And all our heroes, except Hezzord didn’t understand Polish. So our friends were forced to speak English.

“What awaits us in the UK? Can we can get the *magic wand*,” asked Kelly.

“I see a lot of spiled blood, and total confusion. In the end, the magic army of the United Kingdom will play an important part. They’ll fight off the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Element*. It isn’t hard to figure out that it will be all over,” said Arhir.

“How would your journey end, it will depend on many factors. It’s likely that your group will split towards the end of your journey. So each of you has a chance to get the *magic wand*. If you weren’t capable of this, they wouldn’t have sent you,” said Barhir, while concentrating hard.

“I understand everything. From what we’re told, it all depends if we quickly get the magic wand or not,” said Griff.

“Please tell us what awaits us in the UK. But this time be more specific,” asked Miel.

“In the UK, you will need to stick together. You have a tendency to stray from the group. Right from the start, you’ll be on their radar, so to speak,” said Arhir.

“We want to help you a lot, but we don’t know how. If you need something just tell us, and we will certainly help,” explained Barhir.

“Thank you. You are always very polite with us. And it’s very nice,” appreciated Mennon.

“You are very good friends. It’s nice talking to you,” thanked Arhir and Barhir. After our friends had dinner, they went for a walk around the house in the yard. Arhir and Barhir’s house was towering over other houses around it.

So far they haven’t seen anything like it. This house was the biggest in the district. The most interesting thing was that entire rooms were converted into laboratories, bookshelves and collections, where everything around bubbles and shimmers. And the wires, and various homemade electronic devices were literally everywhere.

“I have a feeling that the house of Arhir and Barhir is renewing itself. Each time we came here, we found new room arrangements. I don’t get it. How could they manage to furnish so many rooms again and again,” said Artborg.

“Let’s set a goal. This time, let’s find a way around their entrance,” has offered Kate.

“I’m afraid it isn’t possible. This place is full of all sorts of tunnels and secret rooms, in which we don’t have access,” said Kelly.

“We have half an hour to walk around the house. Arhir and Barhir know that. I’m curious. Let’s finally choose a particular route,” said Griff.

“It’s good idea. I suggest we go to their central lab,” reacted Miel right away.

“And we also want to go to their library,” Selen has expressed his opinion on behalf of the men. And doing that he wrecked the young women’s plans.

“Then we’ll come with you,” said Hezzord, who tried to find a middle ground between the men and the women.

“Okay, let’s start by going to the lab. The library will take a long time,” Mennon has made some concessions.

Soon our friends have managed to get into Arhir and Barhir’s laboratory. It was even more than they expected. It reminded them of a concert hall, because in this particular lab they could hear bubbling, sheer hissing and humming.

“Being in this lab, I feel like I’m in another world. It isn’t usual for me to be among all these glass beakers,” said Artborg sharing his feelings with the others.

“And I like it here. I love everything is new and non-conventional,” said Kate sharing her feelings.

“Look. This is probably the biggest shelf in the world. There are so many different chemicals,” said Kelly and she drew the others’ attention.

All the others came closer, and they looked at it carefully.

“Just don’t drop anything on the floor. We don’t want to upset Arhir and Barhir,” Mennon warned the others.

“I wonder why there is a large round table in the middle of this hall? Perhaps it’s some kind of a secret,” said Miel.

“Look. There are two big and absolutely identical cabinets. These are placed at the same distance to the right and to the left of the table,” said Griff.

“I wonder why in this room there are so many telescopes and safe deposit boxes,” asked Selen.

Our heroes have inspected carefully Arhir and Barhir’s lab. They then left the lab, walked through some more rooms, before founding themselves in a room full of books. It had a tall timber staircase leading upstairs.

“I never thought that Arhir and Barhir could stockpile so many books,” looked around Artborg.

“Yeah, Arhir and Barhir have a good collection of books. This place has all the magic and non-magic books written in Polish,” Kate agreed with her colleagues.

“Are you kidding me? There are books in other world’s languages. Look. There’s the Russian section, and here is the English section,” explained Kelly.

“Not only in other languages, but for every taste,” said Hezzord. He took the first book he could put his hand on. It was big *Illustrative Encyclopaedia* of biology. It was printed in Spanish.

“I think you’ll like to see something interesting,” said Mennon and he grabbed an old geography atlas.

“Let’s see what is on the second floor of this his private library,” said Griff.

“Let’s go there. I also wonder what more are we going to find there,” said Miel.

“Wait for me, said Hezzord and he also ran into the room on the second floor of the library, where they found some very rare Teutonic books, as well as many old artefacts and relics.

Meanwhile, Kate and Kelly continued to frolic. They run, and followed one another in the library. So everything began to shake.

“Please, behave yourselves girls. You are disturbing us,” said Artborg, but no one took any notice of what he said.

“Why are you so sad today?” asked Kate while she climbed up the stairs to the first floor.

“No, I’m not,” said Kelly. She jumped up and she managed to hold on a big gilded chandelier, hanging just above her head. She swang over the floor, and the bookshelves began to shake. For a moment everyone has thought that the selves may collapse. But then a strange thing happened. One of the shelves in the library slid to the side. Behind it was a blue stone stairway, leading down into darkness.

“Today you’ve managed to find another secret-room concealed from us by Arhir and Barhir. I wonder where will this stairway take us to?” said Hezzord. And he shined his torch into the darkness.

“Who knows how many rooms does the house of Arhir and Barhir has,” said Mennon.

“If we count their guests, I would say that there are twenty-two rooms. But if we add up the secret facilities, it means that there are many more rooms,” explained Griff.

“Let’s go down, and see where does the tunnel leads to. I don’t think that we offend Arhir and Barhir by snooping around,” said Miel.

“Good idea. Once we find it, our curiosity will be satisfied,” said Selen.

“I’m against snooping through our friends’ home. Why do something we were not supposed to do,” said Artborg. But no one had listened to him. So he too followed the others, while complaining with a soft voice, which only he could hear.

“I wonder why in this room there are so many wooden boxes labelled GOVERNMENTAL,” asked Kate. In this time our heroes have walked down the stairs, and they went through a long corridor.

“Most likely, Arhir and Barhir use this space to store some of their things,” explained Kelly.

“I could not even imagine that this tunnel is so long,” said Hezzord.

“And on top of that, here it’s terribly cold and damp, like in a tomb,” added Mennon.

“We don’t know where we’re going, or why we are here. I guess you’ll blame it on our curiosity,” said Griff.

“This is all thanks to Kate and Kelly. They’ve found the tunnel. Without them, we wouldn’t have known that such tunnel existed,” said Miel proudly.

“They always find things that others can’t find. We will experience new adventures, with them at our side,” said Griff.

Our friends followed each other down through the tunnel, then up the tunnel, and they arrived in front of a big closed door. It didn’t take them too long to find out how to open it. They found a big key in the wall. They entered in another room, which had tall double deck bookshelves. They had no idea that these existed.

“You are daring partners,” said Artborg. He praised the women, despite the fact that he was at first against this idea.

“Without you inside the library, we would’ve never found the secret the door,” said Griff.

“We should no longer go anywhere further. Let’s just sit here and read,” proposed Mennon.

“Also, the fact that there is a third room full of bookshelves doesn’t make any sense.

It contradicts any building plans,” said Griff being hundred percent sure.

“They didn’t say for nothing, *the more the merrier*,” said Miel quoting a well-known proverb.

“I asked myself always, where do Arhir and Barhir store their interesting books. I mean the books I couldn’t see in their first library. But I couldn’t even dream that they have two libraries,” explained Selen.

“The collection of the books they have in this library, excites me more than the previous ones,” admitted Kate.

“I see that in this library are only hard to find books. I guess that these books are Arhir and Barhir’s favourite books. So only they can come here to read, not everyone else,” said Kelly.

By evening, our heroes came back to their rooms. But they didn’t want to sleep. So they decided all together to chat another hour, before going to bed. Then Arhir and Barhir came to see them.

“I don’t know if you already know this or not. Today we walked around your house.

We decided to see your library. We found out that you have not one, but two libraries. We are telling you this, so you better hear it from us,” began Artborg.

“It’s a special brainteaser for our guests. I am glad that you found it. Earlier I’ve started to doubt the fact that you are inquisitive, which in your line of work is essential. There is another tunnel leading to the river. But you didn’t notice it. Maybe because there were some large wooden boxes piled on top of each other in front of that door,” laughed Arhir.

“We are your guests. We didn’t try to snoop too much. We don’t know how you will respond to such bad behaviour,” admitted Hizzort speaking in Polish.

“You must not forget that you are dealing with us. To things like that, we can respond only positively. When our doors open, our guests can walk in. When our doors are locked, our guests are still welcome. We always have good intentions, said Barhir.

“We wanted you to tell us more about what awaits us in the time yet to come. We decided to go down the tunnel. We have thought that we might find the truth,” said Kate, who in a way tried to say that she is sorry.

“Everything has its time. We don’t want to talk about all of our labyrinths and secret rooms. We hope from the bottom of our hearts, that one day you’ll find these all by yourselves,” said Arhir.

“We know that your house is large and full of mysteries. But no one could dream that it’s that big,” Kelly praised the house.

“We also have a small bunker with a state of the art surveillance system. All we need to see, we see,” admitted Barhir.

“Wow. Tell us about that bunker. At least tell us where is it,” asked Griff.

“Okay, I’ll tell you about it, because today you have almost reached it. It’s located behind the central laboratory, in the same tunnel, which leads to the lower ground garages. And this is how you can open the door. You can find your way there. Inspect that room carefully,” said Arhir, who opened up only a bit the curtain to the secrets of his house.

“In order to open that door, you probably have only a pin number. And you must also click on the correct digit, and probably not in only one place,” guessed Miel. “I think that in order to open the entrance to the tunnel, you need to press few buttons. Most likely these buttons are behind some sort of a cabinet. And then turn to the example of a round table in the middle of the main room. One has to check everything,” said Griff.

“You are very close to unlocking our mysteries. Everything you say is true. I sincerely hope that you open the door at once,” said Barhir.

“What were you doing all day today? If of course it’s not secret,” Mennon changed the subject.

“We were in the garden. It’s behind our house. It’s so lovely. You can see it in the morning,” said Arhir.

“I heard that you like gardening very much. I am glad that you managed to have such a magnificent garden,” said Selen passing on good wishes to the seers.

“We’ll show you our green maze, too. We’ll tell you the secrets of how to get out of the maze. Our house is getting better and better every day,” said Barhir sharing his success in gardening.

“I ask you as I’d ask any seer. What will happen to us soon?” Artborg asked a direct question.

“We don’t see what awaits you in the near future. Everything is unclear at the moment. The troops of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* specifically block your nearest location. And we aren’t able to break this veil. To us, this is for the first time. We’ve never had to crack main spells of such magnitude,” confessed Arhir.

“What do you advise to do, so we avoid this danger,” said Hezzord, who showed interest.

“You are our guests. You can feel completely safe. Our house is perfectly protected. You need lots of sleep. Tomorrow you’ll go on your way with renewed vigour. We two might not go to sleep tonight. But you still need lots of rest,” said Barhir.

“Thank you very much. It’s so good to know that you two care about us,” said Mennon.

“You shouldn’t worry. We two are telling you that everything will be OK,” said Arhir, trying to comfort his guests.

“As far as I know, your home is the biggest special laboratory in the entire Poland. And you could also tell anyone’s destiny to the nearest second,” said Kate.

“Our entire lab is just a toy for tourists. However, it’s very useful. Also, we two can look far into the future. All that knowledge is here,” said Barhira and he pointed towards his head.

“Do you have guns? If not, we will give you some,” Kelly got it all wrong.

“You make me laugh. We have a stash of weapons. If it’s necessary, we could grab one at any moment. We could even give you some,” said Arhir and he laughed.

“Thank you. But we have everything we need. Our beloved Queen Abellin, and our British friends, had brought us so many weapons, that we don’t know where to put it,” said Griff.

“Your cars are now in the garage. We have cleaned your weapons. We refilled it with ammunition. You must remember that we have everything under control. It’s rather late, and I think you should go to bed,” said Barhir.

“Since everything is OK, let’s talk about something else,” suggested Miel.

“Please go bed. It’s already very late. Tomorrow, we don’t want you to fall asleep at the wheel,” said Arhir. He didn’t take no for an answer.

“Good night! We’ll see you two in the morning. We will have to leave this country very soon,” agreed Selenium.

“We are going to sleep too,” said Barhir. He and the other seer, walked downstairs.

* * *

Our friends woke up in the middle of the night. They could hear gunshots all around them. That’s why magic troops in Germany and couldn’t find the enemy agents. Although they were under closed observation, somehow they’ve managed to elude the agents who followed them. And they moved back east, until they’ve reached Arhir and Barhir’s house.

“Lie down,” cried out loud Artborg. They’ve managed to take cover just in the nick of time. A moment later the windows of their bedrooms, were shattered with bullets.

“How did the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* have learned that we are here?” said Kate. She kicked the chair. And while lying on the floor she began to dress.

“You’d better ask us, how couldn’t we see that we were being followed. It turns out that all this time, the army of darkness knew where we were,” said Kelly, and she fastened a weapon on her waist.

“We need to quickly get out of here. This place will be completely wrecked,” Hezzord’s voice was heard from the next room.

“The sooner we all meet in the lobby, the better,” said Mennon, who was the last to realize that.

“You go first. I’ll cover you,” said Griff who was first to be ready for fighting.

“You go first. We’ll follow you,” said Miel and he placed a real cowboy hat on his head.

“If you all agree, I am also ready to fight,” said Selen, with a machine gun in his hands.

Soon all our friends met in the lobby. They had to get out of their rooms, but they didn’t know how to do it. Every one of them thought they needed some assistance from Arhir and Barhir.

“We should get out of here quickly. Who would’ve guessed that the forces of darkness are moving right here,” said Artborg, who came to his senses.

“Stop blabbing. Let’s get downstairs. While we are here it’s worse and worse by the minute, said Mennon.

“We will need, somehow to get to the central lab. I hope it isn’t under enemy control. Otherwise we won’t get to the lower ground garage,” said Artborg.

“I hope that very soon we will be able to meet with Arhir and Barhir,” said Hezzord. And he looked over his shoulder. He wanted to make sure where the corridor was.

“If we can’t hear their response, it’s likely that they are dead,” said Artborg.

“Agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* may be lurking behind every door. We must be very careful,” said Hezzord.

“I also don’t rule out the fact, that they were able to partially take over the house, and capture Arhir and Barhir,” said Artborg.

“Let us take cover quickly. We have no time to wait. If an enemy agent gets into the house and captures Arhir and Barhir before we leave, we can’t get out of here,” said Kate.

A large wooden door, that was at their right hand-side came off its hinges, being spattered by bullets.

“If we could only get out of this hell alive,” said Artborg, and he was the last to go downstairs, with his mates.

“None of us had even dreamed that today we would be ambushed at two o’clock in the morning,” said Hezzord.

“If it were just an ambush, no one would mind that. But to fall into a trap while staying at the famous seers Arhir and Barhir, is like something from tales,” said Mennon who was puzzled.

“Some of us had doubts that enemy agents could ever break into the house to Arhir and Barhir,” said Kate.

“Have this little present from me,” shouted Kelly. She threw a grenade, which was shaped in the form of a tear. After an explosion, the enemy fire immediately ceased, but only for a time.

“Do you need any help,” asked Grif. He’d done a somersault and found himself to the opposite end of the room.

“I’m coming to your side,” said Miel and quickly followed Grif.

“Get behind the wardrobe,” shouted Selen. He shot and killed the last resisting enemy agent. Then the barrage of bullets ceased at once.

Artborg went to the door that led into the second room. He quietly opened the door, not knowing what was behind it. He almost went crazy when he saw that behind the door, there were half a platoon of professional agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. "

“This is another ambush. What are we going to do? I better close the door,” said Artborg in a calm voice, and he quickly walked away from the door.

“It’s like the last ambush wasn’t enough. And we thought that it would be safe. What will happen next?” said Kate.

“We have no choice. We have to beat our enemies here. Otherwise we will not get out alive,” said Kelly.

“We have absolutely no time to spare. I personally don’t know how we get out of here,” said Kate.

“We can’t hold this room much longer time. Very soon it will be surrounded on all sides,” said Artborg.

“Lie down,” called Griff at the last moment. He drew attention to an enemy grenade, which landed in the middle of the room. Then followed an explosion. Luckily no one was hurt.

“So entrenched are our enemy agents, that none of us could push them back, even if we’ve tried,” said Kelly.

Enemy Agents first looked from the east, at the house of Arhir and Barhir. Then they’ve decided to attack. Suddenly, the door leading into the third room was pushed open. Arhir and Barhir entered in the hallway with rifles in their hands. Multiple shots were heard, and all their enemy agents were already lying dead. In front of them, they had a very good defence, but behind them, wasn’t good at all. It was easy for anyone to die in one of these skirmishes. After that, our heroes, together with Arhir and Barhir went to neutralize all of the remaining enemy soldiers.

“Follow us. This time we will win. Everything is under control,” promised Arhir.

“It’s so nice that you came to our aid. I don’t know what we would do without you,” admitted Artborg.

“Let’s go to the lower ground garage. We might be able to get into the cars. We still have a chance to get out of here,” said Barhir.

“Just tell us where our cars are. Also tell us how to get there,” said Hezzord

“To begin with, we will need to get to the central lab, where the two larger glass shelves are. Then press a button, and after that turn the table twice to three hundred

and sixty degrees, and the passage leading to the garage opens in the wall,” Arhir told them briefly.

“Is there another way to get to the lower ground garages?” asked Mennon.

“Yes, of course there is, but we won’t tell you. Next time you’ll need to find it yourselves, and find two extra routes to the river,” explained Barhir.

“Do you think we still have a chance to get out of here alive?” asked Kate.

“Yes of course,” reacted immediately Arhir.

“Everything is under control. They play their games, but on our turf,” said Barhir.

“We never doubted you two. I think you are well-organized this time,” admitted Kelly.

“On the other hand, there is still a small problem. Our central lab is specially designed to sustain such attacks. Meanwhile, we have a good plan to knock out our enemies,” said Barhir.

“I’d like to know how can we help you two,” Griff asked the two guys Arhir and Barhir.

“You don’t have to do a thing. Just be on guard. On this corridor, which leads to all sides, we set all sorts of traps. In this way we can get rid of our enemy agents,” said Arhir with confidence.

“I was expecting something like that from you two. I’m glad you have such traps put in place,” confirmed Miel.

“You can’t even imagine what we have, in case of emergency,” said Barhir.

“What else is there, that we didn’t see yet?” said Selen, who decided to take an interest in the emergency plan.

“Last night, agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* have blocked on purpose our ability to see into the future,” Barhir told them.

“What about now? Can you see the future now, after our enemy agents broke into your house?” asked Kate.

“Now everything is fine. We can clearly see what is going to happen to you in the future,” said Arhir.

“We should all take a seat. I don’t want to miss our two friends’ accurate predictions,” said Kelly.

“The future is changeable. It depends on how you behave in certain situations. But it will be clear whether you will be able to get the *magic wand* or not. And what kind of chances you do have,” Barhir delivered his speech.

“We are all ready for battle. And I will do everything possible if I could get out of here,” said Hezzord showing his enthusiasm.

“You did the right thing. The agents have decided to stop coming to us. I was even afraid to think what would happen to you, if these agents would’ve ambushed you somewhere in the open” said Arhir.

“Are you worried about the fact that enemy agents might knock down your house?” asked Mennon.

“So far they didn’t reach yet our most valuable things. Don’t worry! They’ll never do,” said Barhir.

“I don’t think they can get inside. You told us that the doors were entry proof,” recalled Griff.

“You don’t know what is going to happen next. They forcibly broke into our house. They can only stay here for a short moment, until the Polish Magic Army will arrive,” said Arhir opening their eyes to see the whole picture.

“It’s all because of us. If we would’ve come to you, none of this would have happened,” said Miel putting the blame on himself and his friends.

“We don’t think so. Even if you haven’t arrived, your enemies’ agents would still have attacked our house,” admitted Barhir.

“I think the damage that our enemy agents have caused us is not so great. We can still put back together everything they’ve messed up,” said Arhir and Barhir.

Arhir went to the door, which opened into the central lab. He threw under it a couple of grenades. An explosion was heard. A couple of agents from the *Order Inquisitions* and the *Order of the Elements* died on the spot. Soon after, return shots were heard.

“I beg your pardon. I nearly forgot about this,” said Arhir. And he grabbed a remote control device.

“Wow, we didn’t expect that you have these things at home,” said Artborg. He was the first to understand what was happening.

“It will be overwhelming,” said Barhir. He wanted to warn everyone at the last moment.

“Cool, how long is since you’ve installed this system?” asked Kate. She watched how from the walls came out a metal cutter, cutting everything in its path.

“Only half a year ago. It was very expensive. But we’ve just felt that it would be useful to us one day,” smiled Arhir.

“Every time we come to visit you, we always find that you have something new,” said Kelly. She opened fire on enemy agents. But they were still too many. Some of them managed to escape just in time, before the metal cutter would have finished them off.

“We’ve thought for a long time, if we should buy this cutter or not. Eventually we decided to buy just two sets. We installed one in this room and one in the dining room,” explained Barhir.

“You have a remarkable house. I don’t know what we will find here, the next time we come,” said Hezzord.

“It’s true. Our house is updated on a regular basis. When you’ll get here next time, everything will be probably different,” said Arhir, and he pressed another button on his remote control device, and multitude of needles were shot to enemy targets.

“If I knew earlier that this room is fraught with so many dangers, I would have run for my life,” said Mennon sharing his thoughts with the others.

“Our peaceful guests are never in danger in our house. These traps are only for our enemies. And we have safety features installed to make sure that no accidents happens,” said Barhir trying to convince his friends.

“It’s so thoughtful of you. Still, all of these scare me, even with safety features installed,” said Griff, who shared with them his feelings.

“Don’t worry about these traps. These no longer exist in this room,” Arhir tried to convince everyone after hiding his remote control device.

“I think it’s better to have these traps when you need them. So entrenched are our enemy agents, that we don’t know how to get rid of them,” said Miel after looking at his ultrasound device.

“No, we won’t use these traps anymore. These traps are bad. Let’s leave this room,” said Barhir. He pressed the right button, and he closed all the doors with his remote control device.

“If we get into another ambush, we will activate the appropriate contra measures,” said Selen.

“Our enemy agents are only a few rooms away. I don’t know what you’re going to do next,” said Arhir.

“Wait a little longer. We have to finish off few enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“There won’t be any challenging fighters left,” said Barhir.

“If not for your metal cutters, and shooting needles, I don’t know what we would’ve done,” said Hezzord.

As soon as the shooting stopped, Arhir ran into the room and pressed the red button beneath the large glass rack.

“Wait one moment please,” said Arhir.

Mennon pressed another button under similar shelves, but on the opposite side of the room.

“Now we only need to turn this heavy desk,” explained Barhir.

“And for this you need our help,” said Kate.

“Yes, and we should turn it by hand twice, in a clockwise direction, for three hundred and sixty degrees,” Arhir explained to them what to do.

“Wait for me,” said Kelly, who wanted to lend a hand.

“Hurry, we don’t have much time. Enemy agents are already very close,” said Barhir.

“We are all gathered here. I think we have enough strength to turn this thing,” said Griff.

“Of course, that’s enough manpower. We have only used this device four times before,” explained Arhir.

“You specifically set this mechanism, so the door to the secret rooms will open only when we are all together,” said Miel.

“Yes. But we know how to get out of here,” said Barhir.

“There’s still a little bit to turn. Let’s pull slower,” said Barhir.

The whole room shook. And the far wall five meters in height moved slowly apart in both directions. Finally, a huge passage opened, which lead downstairs. This well-lit tunnel was so broad, that two cars could pass on it next to one another.

“We’ve managed to open the door so easily, just like in the movies, or games, or books,” said Artborg, who was the last to enter the tunnel.

“You are great guys. When we visit Poland again, we’ll come back here,” promised Hezzord.

The door quickly shut behind them. They all rushed to the central lab.

“I hope that here we’ll get better protection,” said Arhir.

He pushed a button on the wall. A bulletproof screen popped up, like security screens at the banks.

“I believe that we are all saved,” said Barhir talking to everyone.

Meanwhile they all went to the lower ground tunnels.

“It’s frightening to think how much money was spent for the building of this tunnel,” admitted Kate.

“How long do we have to walk?” asked Kelly.

“Frankly, we’re late. And I don’t see the edge of this tunnel,” said Kate.

“Wait few more minutes, and will reach the garages,” said Arhir.

“With every moment, we get further from home, we get closer to our goal,” said Kelly.

“Usually, we go by car in this tunnel. It only takes few minutes. But the night before, we have taken the car out of here. And now I blame myself for this. After all, we would’ve saved so much time,” said Barhir.

“The walls are fraught with so many mysteries. No one except you, knows what lies behind them,” said Griff.

“Your home is even bigger than it seems at first glance,” said Miel and he looked back.

“If everyone knew our secrets, we couldn’t get out of here,” said Arhir.

“We’ve told you, that we have everything under control. We always keep our word,” Barhir has reminded them.

“I see a huge iron gate at the end of the tunnel. Very soon we will be at the garage,” said Mennon.

“Please don’t keep us in the dark. We want to hear what awaits us in the future,” Selen has reminded Arhir.

“We still have time to tell you everything. But first, we need to get out of here,” has responded Arhir.

“We already told you. Enemy forces have interrupted us. How many times you want me to repeat the same thing,” said Barhir, who came to the gate and punched in the security code.

The gates opened with a big noise. A bright light shined in the eyes of our friends. Arhir and Barhir’s lower ground garage was more than our friends had anticipated. There were many different cars.

“Wow. You have rare model cars. These must cost a fortune,” said Artborg who couldn’t believe his eyes.

“Where did you get all these cars? Many of these cars were build to order,” said Hezzord who became more and more interested.

“We have here an entire unseen world,” said Arhir and he pressed the button, closing the gate through which they came.

“And here’s your car. We washed all your cars last night,” said Barhir and he showed his guests where their cars were.

“Thank you very much. You are always gentlemen,” said Kate, and she stepped into her car.

“We are ready to leave this parking spot at any moment. We have one last thing to ask you,” said Kelly.

“What car do you chose?” asked Arhir.

“I suggest you chose a simple black jeep. It won’t attract the attention of our enemy agents. We shouldn’t worry about the danger that our cars collection is in. It’s unlikely the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* get to this point. This corner is full of all sorts of traps. Besides, Poland has a magic army. The army could be here in any moment,” has insisted Barhir.

“It’s been long enough time since the start of this skirmish. Poland’s magic army will soon be here,” judged Griff.

“Nevertheless, we should not waste one more minute here. The sooner we leave, the better it is for us,” has warned Miel.

“I hope everyone is ready to leave our house,” said Arhir and he started the engine of his car. He was sitting in the car with his wife.

“Wait for me,” said Barhir. He was the last step into his car, even after his wife.

“Get ready for the big race,” said Mennon. He told everybody to put the seat belts on.

“It remains for us to make the last leap. Very soon we will all be saved,” said Selen who was delighted.

“Follow us. We well show you the safest route,” said Arhir and he started his car.

“We have a safe route, so you can relax,” explained Barhir.

The gate opened, and five black 4WD cars drove on the road like bullets. The gates closed immediately, leaving the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* empty handed. A chase ensued. But soon, their enemy agents have lost them, just as Arhir and Barhir predicted earlier. Our friends were rescued, and the danger had passed.

“We made it. It’s true. But we could’ve been killed,” said Artborg.

“I didn’t expect to get away so quickly, from the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*,” confessed Arhir.

“It’s so nice to be safe. Until one is in danger of losing his or her life, he or she doesn’t value it so much,” confessed Kate.

“We used to do a lot of things, which weren’t valued, because these were simply not needed. For example, the magic link, which now we have to deal with,” said Barhir.

“It’s dark now. I suggest we all stop somewhere and rest. Tomorrow we will continue with renewed strength,” offered Kelly.

“It’s really a good idea. We also wanted to suggest to you, to stop for the night. Who knows these places better than us? If you follow us, in an hour or so, we will arrive to a great place, where we can easily spend the rest of the night,” promised Arhir.

I wonder what you've prepared for us all. I hope we are not in for a surprise,” asked Hezzord becoming uneasy.

“This is a very safe place, on the outskirts of the forest. Apart from us, no one knows about this place,” Barhir said briefly.

“We believe you. You work hard for us. If you didn’t help us, I don’t know what we were going to do,” said Mennon.

“We must be responsible for each of our guest. And while you’re with us, you shouldn’t worry,” Arhir assured every one.

“I still can’t believe that we managed to escape the ambush,” admitted Griff.

“Earlier, the soldiers from the Polish and German Magic Armies came to our house.

It means that our house and our cars collection are saved,” Barhir told them the latest news.

“I am glad that finally all was resolved. The agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* didn’t have time to get to your valuables,” said Miel.

“Many things, which don’t have any value to other people, are of great importance to us. For example, there is the collection of our books, or the collection of these cars, for which we have suffered a lot. Perhaps most valuables also have a very significant value to us. We collect them for a lifetime. And if we ever lose them, you’ll never be able to replace them, since many cars are vintage cars, and these are not available anymore,” Arhir delivered his lecture.

“Yet, how did you know that the Army’s Light Magic came into your house,” asked Selen.

“This isn’t magic at all. We learned it by watching our security cameras,” said Barhir.

“Since you have a working security camera, tell us what else did you see,” asked Artborg.

“Most cameras were shot at and don’t work anymore. But some still show what’s going on in our house. We see that our home is not strongly affected, and can be fully restored,” admitted Arhir.

“We feel guilty, because if we wouldn’t have come to you, none of this would have happened,” said Hezzord.

“It’s all nonsense. Most importantly, we are all safe. Just at this time of the year, we regularly make improvements. So you don’t have to worry,” Barhir said quietly.

“We will send you the money, so you could restore your home,” promised Mennon.

“This is absolutely not necessary. We will cope with everything ourselves. Every year we make repairs to our big house, and we fit all costs into the budget,” said Arhir.

“Then tell us in detail about what awaits us in the future,” asked this time Kate.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea. Today, you are very tired, and you might get the wrong idea. We all need a rest. It would be better if I’ll tell you tomorrow,” promised Barhir.

“If you think it would be better for us to wait, then we’ll wait,” said Kelly making some concessions.

“It’s a great idea. Meanwhile will be able to compile a complete list of predictions,” said Arhir who was glad to get some extra time.

“How long do we still have to travel? I’m already falling asleep. When will this chase end,” complained Griff.

“Our secret place is located on the border with Germany. When you’ll wake up tomorrow morning, first thing you will see will be Germany,” promised Barhir.

“All is set. We’ll have to travel over the entire Poland,” thought Miel.

“Please don’t worry. We guarantee you that while in this country, nothing bad will happen to you,” said Arhir.

“How long will it take?” said Selen and he looked around.

“It will take few hours,” Barhir answered at once.

In the middle of the night, our friends arrived at a new place. It proved to be to their liking. It was an ordinary log cabin, on the outskirts of a forest. The first thing they did was to kindle the fire. It was imperative to get warm, because outside it was autumn.

“I wonder who owns this house?” asked Artborg.

“The house and the land belongs to the two of us,” said Arhir who looked at Barhir.

“I think this is not the only place you own in this district,” commented Hezzord.

“We bought some places on the way to the German border. The chance, that our enemies may find us on one of these properties, is practically zero,” said Barhir.

“Once you’ve bought this land, I guess that the corn fields also belong to you,” said Mennon.

“Yes we harvest wheat from this land, and we sell it for a profit,” said Arhir.

“It seems that you are good businessmen,” said Kate praising them.

“And we also own herds of cows, and several huge apiaries,” said Barhir.

“Then you’ll pick up the check, for all this produce,” reasoned Kelly.

“We offer high quality produce at affordable prices,” Arhir advertised.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if you were involved in many industries,” added Griff.

“Oh, you can’t even imagine in how many areas we are involved,” sighed Barhir.

“I don’t remember seeing your products in my country,” recalled Miel, sitting on the bed.

“Well, we sell not only in Poland, but around the world,” said Arhir.

“You want us to know what will happen tomorrow? Please tell us what will happen to us while in other countries,” Selen has reminded their two friends.

“It won’t be a short story. We don’t have time for this. But we have prepared for you a notebook with predictions, which you can read at your leisure. Everything is described in detail. Let me just say one thing. This notebook will save the lives of some of you,” said Barhir, and he gave Artborg a big and thick old notebook, which was leather-bind.

Outside the window, a cool wind was blowing from the north. Our heroes were so tired that they fell asleep right away

CHAPTER SIX

Nizhny Novgorod

Dmitry and Lissa went with their own car to Zondon's headquarters. It was in Nizhny Novgorod City, in its main castle. They went there in order to liberate these lands from the invaders that belonged to the *Order of the Earth*.

Meanwhile, the army of *Zondon Inquisition* was already in Nizhny Novgorod, waiting for their arrival. They had orders to lead Dmitry and Lissa to storm the castle of the *Order of the Earth*.

Our commanders have been to the outskirts of the city. Yet they haven't seen anyone on the road. The entire army of the *Order of the Earth*, or the army of darkness, hid in the castle, because of fear. They were afraid even to poke their nose out.

"This Order is on its last legs. Soon their end will come," said Dmitry.

"Our enemies still regret a hundred times that they've talked to us with a belligerent voice," said Lissa.

"The *Order of Fire* is lost forever, and very soon will be left without the *Order of the Earth*," said Dmitry.

"It has been a great surprise for them to lose this *Order of Fire*. I'd like to see their expression after they lose the *Order of the Earth* too," added Lissa.

"Why do you think, that they've give us the task to storm the castle of the Order of the Earth?" said Dmitry.

"I think because you're a frequent visitor to this particular Order. You know about him better than anyone else," said Lissa.

"You're right about this. I expected to hear from you such an answer," said Dmitry.

"If we continue to storm their castle, we will soon get rid of them," said Lissa.

"Like a pack of wolves on the snow, they raise their tails and try to get some confidence to attack us. But soon as we show them we are stronger, they place their tails between their legs. This way we could see that they fear us," said Dmitry.

"Now we surprise them, and they don't know what to do. They feel threatened, and they sue for peace," said Lissa.

"What action do you think the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* will take to avoid a further split?" asked Dmitry.

"You just said that they are in a mess, and everyone pulls a blanket over himself," said Lissa.

"Especially the situation of the *West Inquisition* is precarious. The opposition forces are eager to gain independence from the *Order of the Inquisition*, but they are in a weak position on all fronts," said Dmitry.

“We are doing a great work, weakening the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. If we were to let them do what they want, this can lead the world towards destruction,” said Lissa.

“How much can you tolerate these people who belong to the *Order of the Earth*? We came here to solve this problem,” said Dmitry.

“*The Order of the Inquisition* and *the Order of Elements* live their last days. They are no longer able to lead. Someone stronger must take their place. I hope it will be us.

They’ve opened the grilled gates, and our heroes entered the area of the Zondon’s Headquarters in Nizhny Novgorod. A well maintained four-story brick building was before their eyes. Flowers grew in bright flowerbeds around the building. A middle-aged, man was entrusted with the leadership of the army of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

“Welcome to our headquarters in Nizhni Novgorod,” said the man.

“We are glad that you've finally arrived. We are ready to relinquish our command-power of the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* armies,” said the woman who was standing next to the commander.

“You know, you look cool. And I like it here,” said Dmitry and he looked around.

“I bet that you won the best dressed, and the best looking guy in Zondon’s competition for the best dressed army officer,” said Lissa and she came closer.

“You've just arrived on time. It’s up to you to figure out what happened here. But we will explain to you,” said the commander.

“Troops of the *Order of the Earth* dressed in civilian clothes have decided to organize a protest. They began to attract the attention of local residents. But we managed to guess what there up to. Meanwhile they took control of the entire city,” said the woman next to him.

“We know that. We want to discuss with you, how can we take back the city from their hands. Storming the castle of the Order of the Earth was entrusted to us. You are freed from your command duties. But if you so want, you can chip in, and be my councillor of war,” said Dmitry.

“You wouldn’t like to hurt a friend, would you?” said Lissa.

“I am from Zondon. I lived here in Nizhem-Novgorod for ten years “grinned the officer.

“Prior to this, my wife and I lived in Zondon for a very long time. We took part in both wars with the dead. However, even now the war didn’t end for the two of us. I remember the horrors we had to go through in order to survive,” said the woman.

“It means that all of us in this room come from one city, except for my faithful friend,” said Lissa, who drew Dmitry’s attention.

“Do you remember that summer, in which there was a grand parade in honour to commemorate ten years since the end of the war?” asked Lissa.

“At that time we were in Zondon. We were invited to the celebrations. We are invited every year to the parade. But we never go, because we don’t want to show off,” said the woman.

“How many people gave their lives for that particular victory? And how many were proud of our leaders? But our leaders have used the people’s goodwill to their own advantage. All they wanted, it was to cling to power for ever,” said the former commander.

“What you say is true. But after ten years, it still hangs a great danger over Zondon. The war is not over,” said the former commander’s wife.

“The war won’t end for as long as I live. We should hurry to get rid of the instigators of all this. Our troops should put an end to all this,” said the former commander.

“I hate the current leader. His name is father Trey. I hate him more than anyone else in this world. If he were to die, the *West Inquisition* would split from the *Order of the Elements*.” He is the man who has the crown on his head,” said Lissa. “However, all the others aren’t that bad. And if we remember the bad situation that the *Order of Fire* was in, we could see that things could improve,” said the wife of the former commander, and she spread out her hands.

“Believe me, basically the *Order of the Earth* isn’t any better. So Queen Abellin sent her troops right here,” said Dmitry.

“Most of this organization is so cunning and skilful, that we may find it hard to deal with them,” added Lissa.

“We know all this better than you. What you are telling us is true. We live in this city for over ten years. We have nothing to do with them,” said the former commander.

“Ten years ago we came here from Zondon. We were offered this job after much persuasion. After the war, our hometown was in ruins. But now having lived here for so long, we simply don’t want to leave,” said the former commander.

“We are tired from the road, and we need some rest. Could you show us our rooms?” asked Dmitry.

“I thought that we would get here sooner. But the road was long and tiring,” admitted Lissa.

“Yes, of course, you must be very tired. Here are the keys to the entire third floor. Everything was prepared for your arrival,” said the man and he handed the keys to Dmitry.

“If you need anything, we have room service for you,” said the woman.

Dmitry and Lissa went inside the house, passed through security, and a maid opened the door, when they arrived on the third floor. Dmitry and Lissa were treated like superstars.

“The Zondon’s Headquarters in Nizhny-Novgorod have provided us with everything we want,” said Dmitry.

“I like it here, too. I’m happy to spend the night there,” said Lissa.

“I hope you’ve noticed that when we go somewhere, we are treated like Royalty,” said Dmitry.

“Are you kidding? I would accept to be with you under any circumstances,” said Lissa.

“Wonderful people govern here at our Headquarters in Nizhni-Novgorod,” said Dmitry.

“A man and a woman welcomed us here. They’ve organized everything for us,” said Lissa.

“These two have fought in both wars with the dead. They know what life is. Remember when they told us that immediately after the war that they were going to move here? They have organized our lobby group here,” said Dmitry.

“Only if we could make the world a better place. To do this we must knock out all the traitors, and create a new order, from the *Order of the Earth* and its allies,” said Lissa.

No sooner had Dmitry and Lissa come down, that they knocked at the door. The room attendants have brought them their dinner on a trolley.

“Enjoy your dinner,” said the room attendant while she placed the dinner on the table.

“If you will need anything, just ring me. We are at your service,” said the second room attendant.

“We were asked to let you know, that if you have any questions, you can always ask for our help,” said the room attendant.

“Have a good time,” said the second room attendant at the same time.

“In this country we are highly esteemed,” said Dmitry while holding his dinner.

“Because we are so welcomed here, my heart feels that victory awaits us.

Everything here interests us,” said Lissa

“Everyone is tired of the *Order of Elements* and the *Order of the Inquisition’s* oppression. Everyone is willing to break quickly away from them,” said Dmitry.

“Pressure from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* is still very strong, and everyone is already tired of them,” said Lissa.

“Wow, it means we could get support from many. And this support is very important to us,” said Dmitry.

“I also sincerely hope that the *Order of Fire* is not the last party to support us. Otherwise we simply don’t have the numbers to break the forces of darkness,” said Lissa.

“All other organizations are opposing forces that are sympathetic to us. But these men are under severe pressure, so they can’t withdraw from the forces of evil, and join us right now,” said Lissa.

“The more we shake our enemies and weaken them, the sooner the opposing factions could join us,” said Dmitry.

“All right. If at least one order will switch to our side, it would be much easier. And we’ll do everything we can, so this could happen as quickly as possible,” said Lissa.

* * *

The next morning, Dmitry and Lissa woke up in the trill of a lark.

First they put the uniforms on, and then they raised the alarm over the entire army unit. Meanwhile, *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition's* troops were marching on the road, to the castle of the *Order of the Earth*. An entire group of infantrymen were walking behind Dmitry's car as he drove towards the battlefield.

Everyone around knew that the *Order of the Earth* has outlived its time. Someone new will have to take their place, and these will be *Zondon* and the *Order of Fire*. No one was sure of the victory of the forces of light. But here was Dmitry in person, and he had the Attorand's sword with him. This will give them the edge over their opponents.

"Before Queen Abellin has sent us here, we had a long conversation. I was alone with her, and she told me that she trusted my judgement in regard to this battle," said Dmitry.

"I have no doubt in our victory. We will win," said Lissa.

"Incidentally, I also believe in the strength of our soldiers. And even if something goes not quite according to plan, we will still be able to break the army of the *Order of the Earth*," said Dmitry.

"We have with us the Attorand's sword. It will help us win. It never let us down," explained Lissa.

Before Dmitry and Lissa's eyes appeared a lovely brown castle. It had fortifications and it was onion domed. It was solidly built, and it instilled confidence in Dmitry and Lissa. Dmitry picked up a loudspeaker and he started to communicate with the leaders of the *Order of the Earth*.

"Your castle is completely surrounded. We invite you to lay down your arms, then surrender. We guarantee your life to all of you," said Dmitry.

"What do you want to do? Put more pressure on them. At least they might react then," said Lissa, since he didn't answer.

"If you don't agree to accept our offer, much blood will be spilled," said Dmitry.

"Good for you. Show everyone who's the boss. What do they think?" said Lissa and she pat him on his shoulder.

"We don't agree with your offers. We are ready to fight to our last drop of blood," a voice from the castle was finally heard.

"We are ready to make lots of concessions in order to avoid a bloodshed," said Dmitry.

"Also don't forget to get out of here. It will be better for both sides," was the answer.

"I am afraid that this is not possible. We won't get out of here," spoke Lissa.

"We don't want to have anything to do with you, or anything to talk to you," said the same voice.

"Are you normally that hated, when you are completely surrounded," said Dmitry.

"You get out of here. And leave her behind. If not we'll open fire," warned a man who was perched on the wall.

"You are very rude. Think about what you will benefit if you switch to our side," said Lissa.

The armoured jeep, in which Dmitry and Lissa sat, drove closer to the man with the woman whom they met the day before. They've reported the latest news.

"Our investigation documented that the troops of the *West Inquisition* are moving in the direction of Nizhny-Novgorod, and are now within a hundred kilometres from here," said the former commander.

"Thank you for such important information. Although I knew they will come," thanked Dmitry.

"This isn't the time to be indecisive. We have to capture the *Order of the Earth* before the troops of *West Inquisition* arrive here. Our enemies are just playing for time until they get some reinforcements," explained the wife of the former commander.

"Thank you very much. We will take that into account. I think we still have time," reacted Lissa.

"And what are we going to do?" Dmitry asked Lissa, as soon as the former commander and his wife were out of sight.

"We have no choice. If we wait any longer it will be worse for us," said Lissa, who finally came to her senses.

"Then, I give the order to start the fight. It marks the beginning of the battle," said Dmitry who took the decision alone.

"Bring in a helicopter. Zondon will inflict a massive blow to the castle of the *Order of the Earth*," said Lissa.

"Let us see how long will a castle of the *Order of the Earth* resist against the combined armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*," said Dmitry.

"Now let's see how well they protected the castle against an air attack," smiled Lissa.

After a little while, Zondon's helicopters caused a massive fire inside the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, and everything there was in a state of chaos.

"I thought that the castle of the *Order of the Earth* is better protected from an air attack, but I was wrong," said Lissa.

"The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* were supplied with good weapons. But they sold all the good stuff. And everything that wasn't sold, has been stolen," said Dmitry.

"However, they still have a weapon, which no one else in the world has. So their organization has kept it for a long time. It's something against which we have to take our chances," said Lissa.

"They resist our attacks with great difficulties. Don't you think it's suspicious that the commander of the *Order of the Earth*, who has always been famous for his ability to fight, has been relinquished of his duties?" said Dmitry.

"The castle of the *Order of the Earth* starts to weaken. The leaders of this order are still deskbound," said Lissa.

"Well, let them crumble. They won't go on for much longer. If they will continue to resist at this pace, they are doomed," said Dmitry.

"Our helicopters can't bomb the castle constantly. We will soon have to throw in the infantry," said Lissa.

Soon the helicopters flew away. Tanks and the infantry were ordered to attack. The leaders of the Order understood that the situation is far worse than they thought. If they don't change their tactics, then they will lose the lead they had, and might even lose the battle.

"It looks like our troops need my help. I'll use the power of the Attorand's Sword. The strength of our soldiers will increase tenfold," said Dmitry.

"Despite the fact that the forces of the *Order of the Earth* are strongly entrenched in the castle's ruins, I have no doubt that our army will defeat them," admitted Lissa.

"The enemy castle is completely surrounded. I doubt that anyone of them can escape," explained Dmitry.

"I also doubt that anyone is able to run away. All lower ground exits are under our troops direct fire," said Lissa.

A fierce battle ensued between the forces of light and the forces of darkness. Many died on the battlefield. The *Order of the Earth* was not capable to withstand such onslaught, and *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* were not going to reduce the pressure.

"The forces of light, please, help me. Please, increase our strength in this battle against the forces of darkness," Dmitry said his prayer while holding the Attorand's Sword. He could always draw energy from his weapon. And in this battle he needed lots of it.

"Their goal is to hold as long as they can. They wait for troops reinforcements from the *North Inquisition*. That's why they need more time," said Lissa.

"For ten years, I've dreamed that one day people who live in these parts of the country, no longer feel the oppression from the part of the *Order of the Earth*. I'll make sure, that the will of the people will prevail," promised Dmitry.

"We are not alone. We will crush their army. Zondon's army is stronger than any of the other orders' armies," added Lissa.

"Now I'm checking signals from the cameras, which are located near Nizhny-Novgorod. I think that everything is quiet," said Dmitry.

"That's great. It means that everything goes as planned. No one can stop us," said Lissa.

"Frankly, I always feel sorry when we have to destroy castles. I hope it could be restored," said Dmitry.

"You should know that Zondon's builders have already started restoring the castle of the *Order of the Fire*. This castle would have to wait its turn," said Lissa.

"Our troops are storming into the balconies and into the towers. It means that we are doing well up there," said Dmitry in a happy mood.

"So they stormed the main gates and the back gates. The leadership of the *Order of the Earth* is clearly not in shape today. Not to mention that their soldiers are fighting a losing battle," assessed the situation Lissa.

"Today is the day. This castle is going to fall. Yet something's not right. It's a pity I don't know what exactly is," said Dmitry.

“I sincerely hope, that our troops will be able to take over the castle of the *Order of the Earth* very soon,” explained Lissa.

“Not only you are hoping for this moment. I am also waiting for this moment for a very long time, since the revival of these Orders,” said Dmitry.

“I hate the commander of the *Order of the Earth* more than everyone else in their order. He is a very dangerous man,” said Lissa.

“I've met him on many occasions. I'm better qualified than anyone at knowing what he is all about,” said Dmitry.

“Even before becoming commander of the *Order of Water*, that scoundrel Abbot participated in a conspiracy against Queen Abellin of Zondon. He was ambassador then. He had a rapid ascent in his career,” said Lissa.

“Every one of them is corrupt. Even the priests with Trey and Azar, took part in that conspiracy,” recalled Dmitry.

“It's true. They both failed to assassinate Queen Abellin. So they decided to take revenge on Artborg's first wife. It was the day when Zondon lost one of its best soldiers,” said Lissa.

“I hope that Zondon won't lose many soldiers in this fight. You remember what I told you about how Abbot, the villain, had tried to frame me?” said Dmitry.

“I can't forget that easily. When the villain Abbot planted a card in your apartment. It was an entry card from a secret lab, which belonged to *Zondon Inquisition*. Then, the police came into your apartment with a search warrant. They've turned everything upside down. I'm horrified by this evil man,” said Lissa.

“I don't know what would've happened to me, if Kathy wouldn't have taken this card away from my apartment, and returned it anonymously to the rightful owners,” said Dmitry.

“To have such incriminating evidence on you, you could still be in prison. You had luck on your side,” said Lissa.

“I even know what that scoundrel Abbot did. He organized a secret party in Zondon. And I can prove it,” said Dmitry.

“One day, we will be able testify against that scoundrel Abbot, and get him expelled from Zondon,” said Lissa.

“Also, I recently learned that my old enemy from college Macbel is now working in the *North Inquisition* for father Flurt. I think we will hear more about this,” said Dmitry.

“His attraction for the North Inquisition goes too far. He might lose his life before his time,” pondered Lissa.

“Well, that could happen, because he is evil incarnated,” said Dmitry.

“You told me that during studies at Zondon Academy, you were bitter enemies. I am aware of your feelings,” admitted Lissa.

“I have just received information that the troops of the North Inquisition are only a hundred kilometres away,” said Dmitry.

“This is bad news. We need a breakthrough as soon as possible,” said Lissa.

“It will be very bad if we fail to take up positions in the castle of the *Order of the Earth* before the arrival of the Army of the *North Inquisition*. I’m sending immediately into fight the eighth battalion,” said Dmitry.

“It’s a good idea. I think that after this drawback our luck will improve,” said Lissa. Under the pressure of the *Forces of Light*, the *Army of Darkness* was defeated. The combined forces of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* have cracked open the castle of the *Order of Fire* and took over.

“It’s so nice that our troops are at last in this castle,” said Dmitry. He and his woman Lissa also went inside.

The *Order of the Earth* finally got what they deserved for all the suffering that they’ve caused to people. Meanwhile, our heroes climbed up the large stairways to the second floor.

“I bet that the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* is still unable to recover from shock,” said Dmitry.

“I totally agree with you. They obviously didn’t expect to lose the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth*,” said Lissa.

“If only we had a foothold here before the arrival of the Army of *North Inquisition*. And if we could deter our enemies to attack us, we will be safe,” said Dmitry.

“We are doing everything we can. I think we will succeed, because we are already in the castle of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Lissa.

“Honestly, I was most concerned about where the sewerage tunnels exit the castle. Despite the fact that these tunnels are very well protected, if the troops of the *North Inquisition* will be able to reach them, it would be very dangerous for us. Most likely they will be repelled. But then our victory is not complete. The *Order of the Earth* could be set up in another place,” said Dmitry.

“We carefully monitor all entrances and will do everything possible not to allow the leaders of this Order to escape,” said Lissa.

“The thing is that they will strike at different points. They know the castle better than we do. I don’t know what we should do in this case,” said Dmitry, while he took the Attorand’ Sword with him, just in case.

“Don’t worry because of this tight situation. I’ll send part of our army, to fight the incoming forces,” said Lissa, who tried to comfort him.

“I’m not really worried about this. You shouldn’t forget that being in this castle gives us the upper hand against any invading force. Unlike them, we’ve learned the art of self-defence,” said Dmitry.

“What you have just said it’s straight to the point. The troops of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* only know how to fight on enemy territory with the bullets removed from their guns,” said Lissa.

The troops of *Zondon* and of the *Zondon Inquisition* had moved deeper into the castle, encountering on its way up fierce resistance. The struggle was literally fight for every inch, but there were also good sides to this. At the same time, all the towers and balconies were captured by forces of light, and were ready to join battle with the army of the *North Inquisition*.

“Imagine this. The *Order of the Earth* is in this castle. They still hope that they will be able to hold out until the arrival of the army of *North Inquisition*,” said Dmitry. “I don’t want to put an end to their hopes. I’m afraid this is too late for any help for them,” explained Lissa.

“By the time the troops of the *North Inquisition* will arrive here, the castle of the Order of the Earth will be completely into our hands. The so called reinforcements, will have to go back where they came from,” said Dmitry.

“All of their plusses lie in the fact that they can hide for a long time in the endless lower ground labyrinths of the castle. But in the end, these labyrinths are not infinite. Sooner or later, we still get to the leaders of this order,” Lissa gave her opinion.

Right until now the main task of the army of *Zondon* and of *Zondon Inquisition* was to gain full control of the castle of the *Order of the Earth*. The leaders of that order were still not captured. They had retreated inside the catacombs, and it was hard to flush them out.

“Very soon the army of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* will link up in the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, and no one can stop them,” said Dmitry.

“With only few troops left, the *Order of the Earth* can’t prevent us from linking up. *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* must be together,” said Lissa.

“I also think it’s barbaric to cut off a city and separate its people from the rest of the country. Our troops have good soldiers. They try to do their best, and they will take this into account,” said Dmitry, praising his army.

“Victory in this battle will depend not only on us. It will depend on what we’ve learned from all the wars in which we took part,” thought Lissa.

“The armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* have managed to capture a large part of the castle and they will link up soon,” said Dmitry, who was happy.

“I think that the troops of the *North Inquisition* were sent here for nothing. They can’t stop us taking over the castle of the *Order of the Earth*,” smiled Lissa.

“You’re not kidding. They will go mad when they see us here. But this time we won’t give an inch to them,” said Dmitry.

“It’s frightening to imagine what is going on in the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* when they come to terms with the fact that they lost this castle forever,” said Lissa.

“They are probably all day and night walking up and down, not being able yet to recover from the loss of the *Order of Fire*, and then they hear that the *Order of the Earth* is about to fall,” said Dmitry.

“You can search everywhere, and you won’t find worst people than the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. They don’t understand what the orders they give mean. They have bad temper and don’t know any limits,” said Lissa.

Finally the troops of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* were able to link up, and occupy new positions. They’ve prepared for an encounter with the army of the *North Inquisition*.

“The troops of the *West Inquisition* are about to approach the castle, and soon they will be here,” said Lissa.

“We are ready to face the army of the *North Inquisition*. Let’s do this. You’ll take command over the purging of the tunnels of any enemies left in them. And I’ll concentrate to defeat the invading army of the *North Inquisition*,” said Dmitry.

“It’s a good idea. We have no time to waste. It’s good to go halves with our responsibilities,” said Lissa.

Troops of the North Inquisition have arrived to the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, and they opened fire first, without warning. But by that time, the troops of *Zondon* and the *Zondon Inquisition* had enough time to take cover. A new battle began, despite the fact that an old battle just ended. For the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*’s armed forces, danger was lurking everywhere. They had to be very careful in choosing their actions.

“It’s so nice that I was sent on this mission not alone, but with you,” said Dmitry.

“That’s right. You’re doing your part, and I’m doing my bit,” Lissa agreed.

“I have to say that the North Inquisition was able to deploy their troops very quickly,” said Dmitry. And in saying so he praised his enemies.

“Recently, they’ve learned what we’ve taught them. As soon as the *Order of the Earth* asked for help, the army of *North Inquisition*, came to their aid,” said Lissa.

“I thought that the *North Inquisition* would send here a smaller unit. Obviously I was wrong,” said Dmitry.

“What do you expect? The *North Inquisition* is the second largest order. They can afford to send more troops,” said Lissa.

“*West Inquisition* is so large that we can’t compare it with the Order of the Earth,” said Dmitry.

“Ten years ago the *Order of the Elements* was a tiny order. Nobody wanted a union with them. But with the support of the *Order of the Inquisition*, it quickly blossomed, and it became a valued organization,” said Lissa.

“The *Order of the Earth* is no more. You are obviously too late. Go back!” said Dmitry on the loudspeaker.

“Listen to me, Dmitry! Once we came here, you know we aren’t leaving,” a familiar voice was heard as an answer.

“I think you’re just wasting your time. It would be better if you’d save your own skin,” proposed Lissa through the loudspeaker.

“You better mind your own business. We don’t need advice from you,” answered another voice from a loudspeaker.

Following this, helicopters flew over the castle of the *Order of the Earth* dropping bombs, which made everything tremble, but no one was seriously hurt.

“It’s you Macbel, the guy who told Lissa off. I recognized your voice,” said Dmitry through the loudspeaker.

“Yes it’s me, who else? At last we meet again,” Macbel’s arrogant voice sounded loudly.

“You didn’t tell us your name!” Lissa said through the loudspeaker, addressing the man who spoke after Macbel.

“My name is Shatsura. I am the son of father Flurt, the leader of *North Inquisition*. You’ll hear more about me very soon,” he boasted.

“Shatsura, you’re on the wrong track. The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* is a hopeless case. But you can still fix it. It’s time for you to return to the true way. Come and join *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*,” said Dmitry.

“No need to offer me advice. I know that the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*, were good to me,” said Shatsura on the loudspeaker, raising his voice.

“I totally agree with you. But the current leadership in your order is completely out of step with people’s aspirations. Our country is waiting for big changes. People no longer want to live this way. Someone else will have to take your place,” said Lissa, answering to what he said.

“Changes need to be implemented. Everyone understands this. But we are not prepared to give up. We will do everything possible to save our organizations,” said Macbel through the loudspeaker.

“You are all expert liars. No one can trust your word. For how long you are going to lie to people?” said Lissa.

“Stop it, you *Zondon*’s puppets. You don’t understand what you are doing. You’re weakening our country, and we just had to stop you. You won’t be able to hold on to power,” said Macbel through the loudspeaker.

“You think that our country is a democracy. But in reality our country is under a dictatorship. *Zondon* will never forgive you for committing genocide against the *magic people*,” said Lissa.

“Now are different times, and you want us to acknowledge mistakes from former times? If your side will stop the war, it may still be OK. So far, our side won’t attack your city. We sincerely hope that you have come to your senses,” said Macbel.

“We know what we are doing. We are prepared to assume this burden. You stopped the development of this country. Our party is no longer going to tolerate you. By the way, where are you? I can’t see you among the soldiers of the *North Inquisition*,” said Lissa.

“Our unit is located a few miles from you. Don’t even think about shooting me on the spot,” said Macbel over the loudspeaker.

“Every one of you is clearly afraid even to show his face in a unified army of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*,” said Lissa on the loudspeaker.

“Thank you very much for talking to me. But I can’t talk to you. See you soon,” said Macbel over the loudspeaker.

The Army of the *North Inquisition* came with reinforcements. But no matter what, the combined forces of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* continued to resist.

“What kind of soldiers are these *North Inquisition* fighters? It feels like they were not even here,” Dmitry laughed.

“Probably, the north-west border has been left without any protection said Lissa.

“Maybe they’re many, but they aren’t professionals. We’ll take care of them,” said Dmitry in a confident voice.

“Right now they talk to appeal to the soldiers,” added Lissa.

“Frankly, I didn’t expect to talk to Macbel here in Nizhny-Novgorod,” said Dmitry.

“Destiny brings you back together. It means that you have something to do with him,” said Lissa.

“Macbel and I are bitter enemies since we were at school. I’m disgusted even to pronounce his name,” said Dmitry.

“It means nothing if a lot of time has passed since. Your antagonism for each other is not over yet. Today it has brought to you two, a new chance to solve this outstanding hate as two adults,” said Lissa.

“When I was at Zondon Academy, I couldn’t even imagine that under my command, the combined forces of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* would fight against the army of *North Inquisition*, under the command of Macbel and Shatsura, the son of father Flurt,” said Dmitry.

“Sometimes things happen in life, that neither one of you even thought might happen,” said Lissa.

“Still, you are the only woman I’m comfortable to be with. We are made for each other,” said Dmitry.

“I know my dear. You’ve told me a hundred times already. But I’m glad to hear it again,” said Lissa.

Finally, after the enemy helicopter attacks were over, because Zondon’s troops shot them all down, the battle wasn’t over yet. The army of *North Inquisition* was still intact, and it continued to resist. The outcome of this battle hasn’t yet been clear.

“Well Macbel, your helicopters are no more. Our air defences, has wiped out your air force,” said Dmitry through the loudspeaker, trying to provoke his long-time enemy.

“I still have many surprises for you,” said Macbel through the loudspeaker, and he sent his tanks into battle.

“Good move,” estimated Lissa. And in response she ordered to fire from armour-piercing weapons.

“We came here to win. We don’t intend to leave this place defeated,” said Shatsura through the loudspeaker.

“I see that Macbel hasn’t changed a bit since we were at school,” said Dmitry.

“I knew from the start that your goal is to destroy the magic world, and I came to stop you,” said Macbel through the loudspeaker.

“The *Order of Fire* and the *Order of the Earth* have outlived their life span. A big change was long overdue,” said Dmitry through the loudspeaker.

“We had many chances to get rid of you. We all regret that we didn’t. It’s a pity,” said Macbel through the loudspeaker.

“If you could get rid of me, you would’ve done it without any regrets. But sadly for you, this wasn’t possible. So stop talking nonsense,” said Dmitry through a loudspeaker.

“And how many times your Zondon had tried to get rid of our father Trey? Of course they couldn’t touch him, but they’ve tried,” said Shatsura through the loudspeaker.

“What a bad model you’ve chosen. Father Trey is evil incarnated. He is a bloodthirsty man. He is worse than anyone in this country,” said Lissa through a loudspeaker.

“If you only knew that he keeps together the entire *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. He is a very important figure. We still need him,” said Shatsura through a loudspeaker.

The soldiers of light and the soldiers of darkness finally clashed. The battle continued outside and inside the castle. Our heroes had to split in two.

“Only after our troops were able to beat one of the tank platoons, we started to get the upper-hand. It’s the first step towards victory,” said Dmitry.

“If you fail to defeat Macbel’s forces once again, I’ll be very disappointed in you,” Lissa told her man.

“Macbel is a slippery character. I think we can defeat him, because we have no other choice,” answered Dmitry.

“You have never lost a battle yet. No matter how hopeless a battle might be, you always get out without a scratch,” said Lissa.

“Hurry and finish off the army of the *North Inquisition*. Catch also all the leaders of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Dmitry.

“Don’t frighten away the *North Inquisition* and *Order of the Earth*. They are at the bottom of the castle,” said Lissa.

The battle continued to go on the open field. The forces of the *West Inquisition* tried to break into the castle of the *Order of the Earth* and join up with the broken army.

But the army of *Zondon*, and *Zondon Inquisition*, didn’t let them do this.

“Outside the castle is a massacre. It takes so many lives on both sides,” said Lissa again.

“I don’t know what they see in these tunnels?” said Dmitry.

“We hold something they want, namely the castle. It’s just that we don’t know how bad they want it. We forced them into a blind spot,” explained Lissa.

“In fact, if they attacked our Achilles’ heel, they would have made much progress. But we shouldn’t think about that,” said Dmitry.

“Our forces drew near, only because the army of the *West Inquisition* was given orders to attack us. Everything that happened today wasn’t clear,” said Lissa.

“I don’t know what is going on there. Maybe it’s because they’ve stopped to talk to us,” said Dmitry.

“This means that whatever they are doing, we will never know,” said Lissa.

“Even if we try to trap them, or to take advantage of them, we still can’t solve this mystery,” said Dmitry.

“The time will come when we will find out. But now we must decipher what are they up to. What would we do if we were in their place?” said Lissa.

From this time forth, the advantage was on the side of *Zondon*. The *West Inquisition*'s tactics to get inside the castle were futile.

"I don't like how they sacrifice their soldiers and ours, when they know that they don't stand a chance of winning. It hurts everyone," said Dmitry.

"The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* are wasting everybody's time. And it seems that they don't understand that," Lissa tried to explain.

"You know, you maybe right this time. I don't envy our enemies," agreed Dmitry.

"As soon as we will defend the castle and win this war, we get all the answers," said Lissa, and she patted her man on his shoulder as a sign of encouragement.

"Since the *West Inquisition* troops came here, I didn't believe that we couldn't defeat their army," said Dmitry.

"Have fear in your eye, but be brave with your hands. They sent a huge army here, but we went and broke it up," said Lissa.

"We have already gained a big deal. And we halted the leaders of the *Order of the Earth* who tried to escape," said Dmitry.

"All this time we surrounded them. It's time to take them prisoners," said Lissa.

Troops of the *North Inquisition* have retreated at last. The *Zondon*'s troops and *Zondon Inquisition*, following the cries of the fugitives, continued their hot pursuit for the last few soldiers who were retreating, and who belonged to the *Order of the Earth*.

"Macbel and Shatsura have lost the battle. The leaders of the *Order of the Earth*, have no army to back them up," said Dmitry.

"They were given orders to command a huge army. They have taken up that task and then they failed," smiled Lissa.

"They must've been the top commanders they had. That's way they were sent to stop us. But they haven't coped with the task. And finally they've lost any medal they may have wanted," thought Dmitry.

"At least in the near future, these two won't be appointed to command any army," said Lissa.

"I don't think that these two are good generals. And the victory turned away from them, and it showed its face to us," said Dmitry.

"They got what they deserve. And they are lucky to be alive. For the army of the *North Inquisition* it's over. I advise you to resume the assault of the tunnels of the *Order of the Earth*," said Lissa.

"Perhaps, we should go on. We have no time to lose. I don't understand why they don't want to surrender. We guarantee them freedom," said Dmitry.

"You've said that some of them may try to escape. How do you know who gives himself up for real, and who only pretends? We will have to weed out the insincere ones," said Lissa.

Zondon's troops directed their attention towards the remainder of the soldiers of the *Order of the Earth*. The chance to win them over without further fight, no longer existed.

"It was even simpler than we thought, defeating the army of the *North Inquisition*. They did everything they could to lose this battle," has noticed Dmitry.

“Most likely, we’ll be home soon. Although we have one more task,” Lissa has thought.

“Anyway, one day we will return to Zondon. We will be welcomed as winners,” said Dmitry.

“We will be winners, because I’ve given orders to continue the fight. Zondon’s cleanup of the tunnels was a priority,” commented Lissa.

“I think it’s the time for us to personally take part in the capture of the castle of the *Order of the Earth*. This will end this damn war,” said Dmitry.

“Good idea, because we also have a horse. Everyone contributes to this victory. You are not only the commander-in-chief, but also the one who eases the people’s burdens. There’s still a little bit of time left. Soon the castle of the *Order of the Earth* will be taken once and for all,” said Lissa.

“It’s only a matter of time until the army of this order will be annihilated. Nothing will be able to withstand the combined armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*,” said Dmitry.

Dmitry and Lissa went down from the second floor, to the second floor below the ground. They joined the main Zondon army, still fighting with army units of the *Order of the Earth*.

“I didn’t expect that there would still so many soldiers left from the *Order of the Earth*,” said Dmitry and he grabbed the Attorand’ Sword. He then began to slash his enemies right and left. From this wonderful sword came multicoloured light reflections. He cut with it everything came in his way, namely blades, spears, armour, shields and much more.

“What a beauty,” said Lissa, watching the magic sword from the side.

“Why you just stand there? You’re not some kind of boring poster,” said Dmitry.

“I can’t promise that I could match you, but I’ll give you a hand,” said Lissa. She grabbed her sword, and she joined in the battle.

“How do you feel? Do you feel the taste of victory? Because it’s already somewhere close by,” said Dmitry.

“Troops of the *Order of the Earth* are well aware that they will not win this battle, but they still continue to resist,” said Lissa.

“It’s near the day when it was predicted that the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will fall,” said Dmitry.

“I totally agree with you. The army of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* can’t stand against us,” said Lissa.

“Stop saying that. The leaders of the *Order of the Earth*, are hiding deep into the tunnels, and we haven’t reached them yet,” said Dmitry.

“Sane people would have long ago given up, and would not sacrifice the already battered armies,” said Lissa.

“That is you who sacrifice yourself to save the lives of others. They don’t. Those only think how to save their own skin,” said Dmitry.

“These are driving me crazy. Let’s apprehend the leaders of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Lissa.

Troops of *Zondon* and of *Zondon Inquisition* continued to get deeper and deeper into the ground, storming one room after another. In the end, the second floor below the ground was handed over, and after it all the other floors below ground. The battle was fought on the fifth floor below ground. Dmitry and Lissa, were still fighting the *Order of the Earth*.

“How much time has passed, and we still haven’t arrested a single leader of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Dmitry.

“We’ll get them soon. My heart is telling me that all the leaders of this order, are hidden away behind the door at the end of the corridor,” said Lissa.

“I would not want them to get away. But it will all be in vain. On the other hand, we have already achieved a lot,” said Dmitry.

“We have a goal. Everyone will know the outcome soon. But there are few promises,” said Lissa.

“I wouldn’t want to meet again one day with the former leaders of the enemy organization,” said Dmitry.

“Why do you think that the leaders of the *Order of the Earth* are on the run? You don’t have any evidence about that,” said Lissa.

“But they shouldn’t. Time will tell which of us is right. Do you agree with me or not,” said Dmitry.

“You can think what you like. But I will only hope for the best,” said Lissa.

“I think we could assume that the castle of the *Order of the Earth* fell. Nothing can change this,” said Dmitry.

“It’s so clear. From of the entire army of the *Order of the Earth*, there is just one platoon which resists foolishly,” said Lissa.

“Just one platoon keeps us apart from a sure victory. The truth is that soon they will have to concede defeat,” said Dmitry.

“Enough with this argument. Very soon we shall find out who’s right and who’s not,” said Lissa.

The last reluctant soldier of the army of darkness fell at last. And the castle of the *Order of the Earth* was taken without further skirmishes.

“The army of the *Order of the Earth* is finished. Now is the time to deal with the leaders of this order,” said Dmitry.

“You could call these doors, burglar proof doors. Our grenades are unlikely to blow up this bunker,” warned Lissa.

“They’re coming with their hands up,” said Dmitry and he looked around.

“Look who’s here,” said Lissa. She went to one of the mortally wounded warriors of the *Order of the Earth* and she turned him so she could see his face.

“Isn’t he the *Finance Minister* of the *Order of the Earth*? But what is he doing here? Why did he decide to take part in the final battle,” said Dmitry.

“It’s a pity that he didn’t survive. He lost too much blood in this battle. He would’ve been useful to us, with his knowledge. It’s a pity,” said Lissa. She went to find out who kicked a dead body lying in the middle of the hall.

“I think this is the Vice-President of the Order. I don’t understand why has he decided to fight,” said Dmitry.

“I see that these were important people in their higher ranks. I feel that we have already reached the top echelon. And this is just the beginning,” said Lissa. Soon there came the bomb squad, specialized in tunnels. They quickly laid explosives over the entire door. Then, they politely asked everyone to leave. After that, an explosion was heard, and the steel door was knocked off its hinges. But once the fog lifted, our heroes found two more leaders of this Order in the shattered room. Now everything was clear. All this time the leaders of this order weren’t in command of their army. They have tried to escape from the castle of the *Order of the Earth*. And the troops from the *North Inquisition* under the leadership of Macbel and Shatsura, came here not to stop *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*, but to rescue the leaders of the *Order of the Earth*. This meant that victory over the *Order of the Earth* was not complete. This order could still be reorganized in another place, with the former leaders. So that one-day our heroes had to fight again these enemies.

“Dmitry and Lissa entered the ruined room to take the prisoners away.

“Not all is bad as it seems at first sight. For today we have achieved a lot. We managed to take the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, thus freeing the land. We also apprehended quickly the leaders of this order,” said Lissa seeing the good side of the events.

“Yes they are all here, the six of them. The *Order of the Earth* will reorganize, and it will be friendly to us this time,” said Dmitry.

“Nevertheless, these captives are still needed for intelligence purposes. There is something I want you to know. For a long time I’ve wanted to set up a new *Zondon Order of the Earth*,” said Lissa.

“Look, this is the Vice-President’s deputy of the *Order of the Earth*. I’m more than happy for catching them,” said Dmitry.

“And next to him is the *Foreign Minister* of the *Order of the Earth*. He isn’t such a well-known figure,” said Lissa.

“As some leaders of the Order had fled, abandoning their former cronies, it means they are not well bonded,” said Dmitry.

“I’ll have to know for sure what they did, and what happened to them. Why were they thrown in here? Who did it and for what reasons?” said Lissa.

“It’s a pity that we won’t be able to have again a face to face meeting with this army of the *Order The Earth*,” said Dmitry.

“And if we ever had an encounter, that battle will be in another place and another time. We have just secured their castle, and defeated its army. If this order will ever be reorganized, I hope it will be friendly to us, so we wouldn’t have to fight them again,” said Lissa.

Not wasting more time, Dmitry and Lissa began to untie the prisoners, whom they would interrogate.

“We already know a lot. We still don’t know, why the leader of the Order of the Earth had thrown you in here. He could kill you. Or he could take you with him,” Dmitry asked a direct question to one of the prisoners.

“The supreme leader of the *Order of the Earth* didn’t trust us. He thought that we will switch sides at the first opportunity,” said the second deputy, who tried to answer the question.

“But why didn’t he kill you? He could’ve done so,” asked Lissa, while she sat on a chair in front of the prisoners.

“I think that you want us to form a new *Order of the Earth* in Zondon. But first you want to make sure of our commitment to Zondon,” guessed the *Foreign Minister*.

“It’s true. But we want to hear from you, convincing evidence about why we should trust you,” said Dmitry.

“We are true patriots of this order. And to tell you the truth, we didn’t like what was going on in our Order,” said the second deputy.

“It’s no secret that we are from opposing factions of the *Order of the Earth*. And it was an internal struggle in our Order. Therefore we weren’t trusted,” added the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

“In any case, we are not interested in the faction fighting within your order. We don’t know the real events that precipitated these fights. We need more tangible evidence. Unless, of course, you want to join the new *Zondon Order of the Earth*” said Lissa.

“It doesn’t inspire any confidence, what you’ve told us so far. You haven’t explained why should we trust you,” Dmitry repeated once more.

“We will not disappoint you, and will present a convincing case, that you will believe,” promised the second deputy.

“Some of our factional forces were involved in the assassination plot of the supreme leader of the Order of the Earth. But everyone knows that it isn’t possible. Some of our people were executed. But we miraculously managed to stay alive, because our guilt was not proven, despite the fact that we were the instigators of the whole saga,” admitted the Foreign Minister.

“The details are interesting. We have heard much about this story, but we have to check out that what you’ve told us is true, by reading the official documents,” said Lissa.

“Just as Zondon investigation has demonstrated, the leaders of the *Order of the Earth* ran through the tunnels away from the castle. The *North Inquisition* troops came here not to fight with us. They merely wanted to rescue the leaders of this Order. That is why the forces of the Order, kept defending the castle until the last drop of blood. They wanted that the army of Zondon wouldn’t find the truth for as long as possible. And in this time, their leaders could escape,” said Dmitry.

Despite the fact that all the exits from the tunnels were perfectly protected, the *Army of North Inquisition* still managed to penetrate the ranks of the *soldiers of light* in two places. Dmitry and Lissa didn’t know anything about it. The storming troops superimposed on Zondon camera, fake images, which looked so real, that our heroes haven’t noticed anything what was really going on. There wasn’t a visual warning. And the troops defending these tunnels didn’t have time to send a warning, because they were taken by surprise and killed.

“I hope that for a while, until we receive fresh information, you have time to think about what you are going to say,” said Dmitry.

“Not everyone knows how many people were captured and tortured secretly. It was after the botched attempt to the life of our *supreme leader*,” said the second deputy.

“Despite the fact that our guilt was not proven, after this incident, we were no longer trusted” continued the Foreign Minister.

“Why weren’t you killed? Why our troops had to find you?” asked Lissa.

“Maybe you’re a bite. You fooled us all this time,” suspected Dmitry.

“The *Order of the Earth* are well aware, that we are the instigators of all this. But they can’t prove it,” said the second deputy.

“If they’ve killed us, our factional fights would have taken huge proportions. And there could have been retaliations. And they needed to keep away from such things,” admitted the Foreign Minister.

“If you have nothing more to say, we will check all the intelligence you’ve passed on to us. If it proves true, you’ll keep your jobs. But now I’m ordering my guards to take you away,” said Lissa.

In the room where Dmitry and Lissa were, Zondon guards entered and they took away the second deputy and the Foreign Minister, who were placed under arrest.

“It happens so fast. I didn’t expect this turn of events,” admitted Dmitry.

“Not so long ago you said that the battle was futile, because we didn’t have in our hands the leader of the *Order of the Earth*,” recalled Lissa.

“For today we have achieved a lot. And this victory will help us win future battles,”

Dmitry agreed.

“It will be necessary to talk to the second deputy, and the Foreign Minister of the attempt on the *supreme leader* of the Order, and his associates. Maybe we can kill him. And we can organize a new *Order of the Earth* but this time friendly towards us,” said Lissa.

“We will do everything possible to avoid surrendering the castle in the future. We want to create a new *Zondon Order of the Earth*,” said Dmitry.

“It seems to me that the new *Zondon Order of the Earth* will be very popular, because it’s located in the historical castle of the *Order of the Earth*. Now, all that will be implemented by the former opposition leaders,” said Lissa.

“If the second deputy and the Foreign Minister will be able to prove their loyalty to Zondon, and I believe that they could, then we have yet to join their party,” said Dmitry.

“I also like those two. They are well-known figures. I’ll be happy for them if they start to rise,” said Lissa.

“It’s not up to me. Queen Abellin of Zondon, she will decide this, not me. You forgot that I won the *Royal Election*. But I refused the appointment. I have higher responsibilities. I must manage the entire magic Russia,” said Dmitry.

“Exactly. You do have a big impact in Zondon. I think you’ll be able to talk about it with Queen Abellin,” said Lissa.

“In addition to this, I have more important things to do. But I’m sure that I’ll have a good talk with Queen Abellin, and I’ll leave her to have the choice. Let it all be on her conscience, not mine,” said Dmitry.

“I think that with these new leaders, *Zondon Order of the Earth* will fare better. And it will have tremendous popularity among all the other orders,” said Lissa.

CHAPTER SEVEN

BERLIN

Poland was left far behind. Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kathy, Kelly, Griff, Miel, and Selen, were travelling through Germany. Arhir, and his wife Arhira, and Barhir and his wife Barhira were also accompanying them. Only that our heroes found themselves in *Western Europe*. At this time even a stranger could be their friend, because neither the *Inquisition* nor the *Order of the Elements*, had any muscle to harm them here.

“You could breath easily. We are finally in Germany. And here has always been orderliness. It has become a tradition,” Arborg spoke first.

“I doubt that the forces of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will come here too, and spoil our stay,” added Hezzord.

“We are safe here. We can have some free time, to relax,” advised Mennon.

“Finally we found ourselves in a fine country. We’ve already won. In few more days we’ll go to the United Kingdom, the best country in the world,” said Kate.

“You can’t even imagine how happy I am. I came to visit this place once again. Germany is one of my favourite countries, so here I am going to be your guide,” said Kelly.

“We’re going to stay near Berlin. We’ll reach the town shortly,” Griff has warned them.

“The sooner we can get to the city, the more we can see some of its best sights. Because tomorrow at dawn we will have to leave this town,” Miel reminded them.

“We must not forget that we are on the job. We don’t just drive around Europe, enjoying the local scenery,” added Selen.

“You won’t be mad at us, if we will spend our time only in Berlin?” asked Arhir.

“We don’t feel that you are in any danger. I think that you can handle this yourselves, without our help,” added Arhira.

“Don’t get us wrong. We have a lot to do, and we still need to rebuild our house,” began to explain Barhir.

“We can’t take you to London. We have to visit certain places, and you can easily compromise us to be exposed as foreign agents,” explained Barhira.

“You’ve helped us escape that ambush. For this, we are forever in your debt,” Artborg expressed his gratitude to them.

“I’ve never thought that in a house like yours, so well protected, we’ll get into such an ambush,” admitted Kathy.

“Are you kidding me? Their house is not only a home, it’s a real a shelter, with plenty of tunnels,” added Hezzord.

“And remember. For the rest of this night, we’ll spend our time in the forest, at a small house,” Mennon reminded them.

“This morning Arhir has told to me that not far from this place, there is an lower ground passage, in which case we could take refuge,” said Griff, who revealed this secret.

“Tonight, they didn’t show it to us. According to them, at this time we are fast asleep,” explained Miel.

“Agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* nearly got rid of us. Only thanks to Arhir and Barhir we’ve survived,” spoke Selen.

“Stop it. You embarrass me. If we were to come to your home, you would’ve done exactly the same,” said Arhir.

“Don’t worry about our house. It only needs few simple repairs,” Arhira comforted her friends.

“All right then. We got off easily. No one of us was even injured,” said Barhir.

“We prefer you to e-mail us. In that way, we would spend less time talking, and everything we say would be in writing,” said Barhira.

“Arhir and Barhir were reluctant to abandon the cars in which our heroes were driven to Berlin. They haven’t been told yet, the real story about these cars.

“Here we are in Berlin. This means that we have already driven most of the way to our destination,” said Artborg.

“Nevertheless, the city of Berlin is built on a very large area. We will have to wait a little longer before we see all the local attractions,” added Hezzord.

“This morning Kelly had already browsed through the Internet. She searched for the names Arhir and Barhir. She got so much information, that it gave us something to read,” said Kathy.

“I often read predictions made in the newspapers and magazines. Whatever Arhir and Barhir predict, it always comes true,” said Kelly.

“We don’t remember if you’ve said it or not, but on our blog it’s written that Grif, Miel, Selen aren’t only our allies. We also accompany you on your way,” added Arhir.

“On the road you’ll still encounter Zondon’s undercover agents. You will need help from the French magic legion,” explained Arhira.

“We’ve only arrived in Germany, and we already got into so many adventures. To be honest, I’m even afraid to imagine what awaits us on our way,” said Griff.

“To tell you the truth, I didn’t expect that in Eastern Europe we would come across so many perils,” admitted Miel.

“Of course that we have assumed it will be a difficult task. Only that we didn’t think these would be so many,” said Selen.

“I’ve always said that *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* is a big problem that needs to be dealt with,” Mennon reminded them.

“All this is a well known thing. Let us help you,” said Barhir.

“Even we, who live in Poland, and I’m not just saying it, we know what the *Order of the Inquisition* and *the Order of Elements* stand for,” said Barhira.

“I’m curious if we will be able to go through at least one country, without being attacked by anyone,” Artborg asked a rhetorical question.

“Probably not, but can we get to drive much of this country, without falling into an ambush. Undercover agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* don’t give us any breathing space. I don’t think they will give us a moment to relax, even here,” Hezzord expressed his opinion.

“If the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* there are well equipped, they would ambush us as many times as they could in each country. They will try to achieve their goals,” said Kathy.

“They are capable to let their country fall apart. Yet on foreign soil they show strength,” Kelly drew her friends’ attention.

“In today’s morning paper I’ve read that *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition’s* troops have taken the castles of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth*,” Arhir told them the good news.

“It’s such a shame that the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* have managed to run away,” laughed Arhira.

“Despite the fact that the leaders of the castle of the *Order of the Earth* managed to escape, it’s unlikely they will be able to create a new order, as great as it was before,” thought Griff.

“It’s such a shame that the leaders of the *Order of the Earth* haven’t recovered,” Miel drew their attention.

“I wonder who will be next and if the *Zondon* troops will take anything else,” said Selen.

“Despite the fact that our troops don’t possess the element of surprise, they still have a chance for victory,” Mennon has expressed his opinion.

“We have just received an urgent message. We urgently need to go home,” said Barhir.

“We can’t accompany you any more. The commander in chief of Magic Polish Army, while in an emergency meeting, has ordered us to come back. It has something to do with an issue of security of our great country,” explained Barhira. Saying goodbye to our heroes, Arhir and Barhir, as well as their wives, have left. They’ve wished good luck to our friends, and they invited our friends to visit them when passing through Poland. As soon as their cars were out of sight, our friends felt very differently. They felt something was missing, despite the fact that their squad had eight people.

“It’s so hard to say goodbye to Arhir and Barhir. I have such warm feelings towards them,” Artborg shared his feelings.

“Arhir and Barhir are such nice guys. It’s always fun to be around them. And they always come to your rescue,” said Hezzord.

“They don’t travel to our country. Therefore, we came once again to them,” said Kathy.

“Look, it's the Olympic Stadium,” said Kelly, and she drew the attention of her friends.

“Here in the Western Europe all the local attractions are relatively far apart from each other,” said Griff.

“Not as in Moscow: If one went to Red Square, he or she saw most of the sights,” murmured Miel.

“Here you need to travel around the city. Everywhere, there is something to see. For example, you could see the TV tower. We've just drove past it,” said Selen.

“Let's stop somewhere. Let's talk about our schedule,” said Mennon.

We left the *Brandenburg Gate* behind us. We stopped our three black 4WD cars near the famous *Reichstag*.

“In my opinion the newly renovated Reichstag, with a glass roof, looks more impressive than the one that stood before 1945,” said Artborg, who was the first to get out of the car.

“It's a beautiful sight. Kate and Kelly have already told us, that the moment we find ourselves in Western Europe, everything will be different,” said Hezzord and he looked around.

“Today I plan to go to the *New National Gallery*,” Kate told everyone.

“And I like the *Old National Gallery*,” added Kelly.

“We were right to stop and see the traditions of every major city,” said Griff.

“And why don't we stop even outside the major cities?” asked Miel.

“We are in the heart of Europe. This is something we have to do,” Selen drew the attention of the others.

“If you intend to go to the old, and the *New National Gallery*, we don't have enough time, because we've spent too much time to see the Reichstag,” said Mennon.

Our friends came back to their cars, and they drove further west, to the *New National Gallery*.

“You saw it. We've just drove past the *Berlin Wall*,” said Artborg.

“So it's great because it means that very soon we will be there,” said Kelly.

“Tonight we will have to spend the night here in Berlin. I think that while we still have time we should enjoy,” said Kate.

“I don't think so. We would bypass the two galleries. We need at least one more day to see everything,” said Kelly.

“The largest of all the museums, perhaps we'll see it in London. At least we should reserve a whole day, so we could go and visit the Museum of Science, as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum, in spite of the fact that they are close to each other,” admitted Griff,” said Kate.

“Kate, I knew already that your favourite foreign country is the United Kingdom. And so is mine,” said Kelly.

“And Kelly is so absorbed by this travel through Germany. I had never seen her happier,” said Kate.

“I don't regret at all that you agreed to take me with you on this job. It's an experience for me to go across Europe,” said Kelly.

It started to get dark, and our friends had nothing to do but to leave this place, and go home. During the day they could visit the new and the *Old National Gallery*. They all liked it. They were amazed at what they saw.

“You know, I like it here,” has confessed Artborg.

Meanwhile, they drove the cars again, this time to their hotel.

“We had a good day, today. We wouldn’t have guessed that we would be free of any trouble. Here in Germany, everything is kept in order. I think that while we are in this country, we have nothing to fear,” said Hezzord.

“Let’s hope that tonight will be the same. We might get some sleep,” said Kelly.

“I wouldn’t want to go through another sleepless night, as it happened to us when we were guests at Arhir and Barhir.

“No one knew it would happen. The situation was unclear,” said Griff, who stood up for his Polish friends.

“Without Arhir and Barhir support, we could hardly get out of that ambush,” said Kelly.

“Zondon is far away. My heart feels, it isn’t long before we get back to it,” said Kate.

“What could Zondon do to save us if we were in trouble. Tonight, we are in one of the most peaceful countries in the world. And even here, our enemies from back home are trying to kill us. You think about it,” said Kelly.

By this time it was already getting dark. Our friends managed to get to the hotel and had just moved into another penthouse. It was one of Berlin’s most exquisite hotels.

“Tomorrow we will be in France. I am very pleased with this thought,” admitted Artborg.

“If all goes according to our plan, the day after tomorrow we’ll be in the UK,” said Hezzord.

“Hang on a minute. What if something goes wrong? We will have to find alternative routes. Our journey may be delayed for a few days. But either way, we’ll get there very soon,” said Mennon .

“The *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* can’t keep up with us. They set up one ambush after another,” Kathy complained.

“Nothing will come out of their attempts to our lives. They have lost their *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*, and this only the beginning,” Kelly confirmed.

“I still can’t find the answer to this question. How did our enemies know that we were sent on a mission to London? Who could have betrayed us,” thought Griff.

“There are many spies in Zondon. I don’t know why you wonder?” said Miel.

“The time will come when we will find out,” said Griff.

“I’m also interested in the name of this man, who has betrayed us all. It’s all because of him we fell into an ambush in every country on the way,” said Selen. Only at nightfall, our friends managed to sort out their problems. They continued their conversation until bedtime.

“When the *Order of the Inquisition* was all powerful, everyone feared it. Nowadays it isn’t the case,” grinned Artborg.

“All I could tell is that they were looking for trouble. And they found it. I’m not surprised at all,” said Hezzord.

“They have always acted dreadfully in relation to one another. They’ve got what they deserve,” judged Mennon.

“Who would have thought ten years ago, that all that would happen?” Asked Kate.

“What do you expect? Change is the only sure thing in this life,” explained Kelly.

“I hope we all live to see the time when the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will collapse completely,” Griff sighed.

“This won’t happen in such a distant future. Soon their end will come,” said Miel.

“If all goes according to plan, the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will collapse this year. If not, next year will be just fine,” summed Selen.

The next morning Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kathy, Kelly, Griff, Miel and Selen continued their journey through Germany. They’ve soon arrived at the famous city of Cologne.

“It seems it paid off to get up early in the morning. We drove through most of this country, since we left Berlin,” said Artborg.

“Cologne is a beautiful big city in the western part of Germany. I like it,” said Kate.

“Hurry to get to the attractions of this city. I can’t wait to see them,” said Kelly.

“We had a great trip for the entire morning. That’s why we got up so early,” said Kate.

“Almost all the attractions of this town are across the River Rhine. As we cross the river to the other side, I think that we will have great fun,” said Kelly.

“As soon as we find ourselves on the Rhine’s west side, we’ll be even closer to London,” said Griff.

“When we cross the Rive Rhine we can stretch our hands and reach France and Britain,” Artborg mocked them.

“By the way, we could cross the river on this bridge,” said Selen pointing to a bridge nearby.

“I propose we cross over the main bridge. The road takes us to the *Cologne Cathedral*, the main attraction of this city. The best views in this town could be seen there,” said Artborg.

“Germany is in the heart of Europe. This means that we have already travelled much of the way,” said Selen.

“We drove almost over the entire Germany. And we didn’t fall in an enemy agents’ ambush. I think we can safely drive to the end of our journey,” said Kate.

“Keep your fingers crossed. Let’s wait a little longer. Today isn’t over yet,” said Kelly.

“We also crossed almost the entire Poland without any incident,” said Kate.

“What do I think about this notebook of Arhir and Barhir?” asked Griff.

“Does it have anything specific on our route segment? They could write and write what ambush lies in wait for us, and if it’s somewhere nearby. But whether we fall into it or not, it will depend on us,” said Artborg.

“If Arhir and Barhir talk about a possible ambush, it means we must be on guard,” said Mennon.

“If it’s an ambush, it will happen at the river. To walk or drive undetected in this area is simply impossible,” said Artborg.

“I think so too. We are in no danger while we’re on this side of the river,” said Hezzord.

“If I’d be in your place I wouldn’t be so sure. I believe that the danger can lie in wait for us on both sides of the river,” said Mennon.

“On the west side of the River Rhine, is the *Chocolate Museum*. I can’t wait to visit it,” thought beautiful Kate.

“Also, the *House of Cologne* is not far from here. We can go there too,” added Kelly.

“You are hinting at that because you want to buy some new perfumes,” said Griff.

“It’s okay, don’t pay attention to them,” Miel tried to be on Griff’s side.

“Here in Cologne are so many interesting things. We can’t just leave this city without seeing them all,” admitted Selen.

“We won’t stop for the night in this city. If we do, we will be sitting ducks. We are on a mission, not on leave. The sooner we deliver the *Magic Wand* to Zondon, the better it is. It’s time to turn from the wrong path,” said Artborg.

“I wonder when we finish with this task, where to are they going to send us.” asked Hezzord.

“Most likely, somewhere far away, where we won’t be crushed,” thought Mennon.

“France is one of the most romantic countries in the world. And we won’t be harmed there,” promised Kate.

“France is already within reach. I think that very soon we’ll cross its border,” agreed Kelly.

“And here is the same River Rhine,” Griff reminded the others at the last moment.

“As soon as we cross to the other side of the river, you can assume that we have made a big deal,” said Miel.

“We made the right choice, when we have chosen this route,” added Selen.

Meanwhile, the car drove along the main bridge over the River Rhine. Our friends found themselves on the west side of this city.

You see? This is the famous *Cologne Cathedral*. I hope we take a look at it,” Artborg said first.

“Sure, it’s one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. I agree with you to go and visit it,” said Miel.

“Driving close to the *Cologne Cathedral*, I became interested in seeing *Cologne Arena*,” said Kate.

“Do you know that besides the *Cologne Cathedral*, there are twelve Romanesque churches?” said Kelly.

“In the north, there is *Media Park* where the local media buildings are,” said Kate.

“I think our women are more interested in *Fantasy Land*, the largest amusement park here in Germany,” said Griff.

“Despite the fact that this is not a major city in Germany, there is something to see,” said Kate.

“Every year millions of tourists come here from all over the world,” said Kelly. After wandering around the Gothic cathedral our friends entered the old building. “Look at the high ceiling. One feels like he or she is in heaven,” admitted Artborg. “The people who lived here centuries ago, left this place to posterity,” said Hezzord.

“The windows create such an unusual atmosphere of warmth and cosiness,” said Kate.

“There are the *Tomb of the Magi, Magi Kings*, and a so many other sculptures,” said Kelly.

“Inside the cathedral the entire interior looks like a cross. This is the original. It was such a extraordinary idea,” said Artborg.

“This cathedral was built between 1248 and 1437, and it was rebuilt between 1842 and 1880,” Griff remembered the exact time when it was built.

“Is it true that the building is still not fully completed? Every year it requires lots of money for repairs,” said Mennon.

“I forgot to say that this Cathedral is named in honour of Saints Peter and Mary,” said Kate.

Our heroes decided to try the local sweets, after walking back and forth, and examining the Cologne Cathedral. So they went to visit the *Museum of Chocolate*. “How do you like the Cologne Cathedral?” asked Artborg, sitting behind the wheel.

“It’s even more wonderful than it seems at first glance,” Hezzord admitted first.

“I don’t regret that we visited it,” said Mennon a bit late.

“It’s my second time here in Cologne. The first time I tried this chocolate. It was simply yummy,” confessed Kate.

“We should come back, only for this tasty chocolate,” Kelly supported her friend.

“We have lots of time. And we have more to see in this town,” recalled Griff.

“I was very upset thought. Today is Saturday, and we can’t go to a football match, due to the fact that by the evening, we should already be in France,” added Miel, a sports fanatic.

“France is also good. There are many sports facilities,” said Selen.

“On the way to the *Chocolate Museum*, our friends have decided to take some photographs of the city, so they went back to the *Cologne Arena*.

“These are excellent photos. Why didn’t we think earlier about taking some photos?” said Artborg.

“We will need more photos from the top of the city to complete our collection,” Hezzord added.

They did the right thing. They’ve decided to go back to the eastern side of the city.

“It took us only few minutes,” said Mennon and looked at his watch.

“It offers excellent views of the city,” said Kate, and she looked around her.

“Have you noticed that in Cologne, they grow wheat as lawn?” Kelly drew their attention.

“And why shouldn’t they grow wheat. Here they have clean environment. I believe that the citizens of Cologne are enlightened people,” said Griff.

“It’s not only the air, which is clean, but everything around. The truth is that here, the fallen leaves aren’t removed,” said Miel, who sat on a stone.

“The day has just begun. I think we still have time,” said Selen.

After they took photos from all sides, three black 4WD cars were headed back to the main bridge leading to the *Cologne Cathedral*. But as soon as they reached the middle of the river, few cars with agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* blocked their way. Helicopters hovered over their heads.

“How did they know that we would go back to take some photos on the other side of the river?” asked Artborg hiding from a hail of bullets.

“For the first time we got to the other side, out of the blue. Was it because our enemy agents were unable to work in an organized manner?” said Kate.

“Hundred times I’ve wished that we returned. We must not forget that we are on a mission, not on vacation, said Kelly.

“Looks like we’re stuck here for a while. We didn’t have a clue, we would get ambushed right in the heart of an European city,” said Kate.

“Without the support of the joint *European Army* magic, we could not have moved ahead not even one metre,” said Kelly.

Our friends took cover. It’s difficult to fight with agents, who are capable to suddenly appear and disappear, anywhere.

“Everything you said is true. The leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*, came here as agents. It may take a while before this problem is finally solved,” said Griff, who found a smoking gun, so to speak.

“I’m afraid that as long as we fail to get through, we can’t leave this place,” said Selen.

“If we didn’t come back here, we would’ve already approached the French border. This would be the first country through which we could drive without fearing an ambush,” said Kate.

“After this fight, we have to pay to repair our cars again. Our cars have dents once again. It wouldn’t be wise to drive around in damaged cars,” said Artborg.

“We left our cars at a garage in the Republic of Belarus, after these were damaged in a similar ambush. And here they are. We drive these cars in Germany,” said Selen.

“We have eight people in the unit. Yet, we are opposed by a whole platoon of infantry, and a few helicopters,” said Kelly.

“If I only knew that they were waiting for us in an ambush here, then I wouldn’t have come back to this side of the city,” said Kate.

“Before the battle started, I found the notebook, which Arhir and Barhir gave to us. The content of the notebook texts varies,” said Kelly.

“Get this,” shouted Griff. And he fired a rocket-propelled grenade, and he shot down the helicopter.

“This is not surprising, because the future is unpredictable. It means that at the end of our journey, we can expect something quite different than it’s written now in this notebook.” said

Kate.

“It also says in this notebook, that the way to the West will be closed to us. We have to look for new routes, if we want to get to the United Kingdom,” said Kelly. The battle continued to flare up, more and more. The forces of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* attacked from all sides. Our heroes could not cope.

“This encirclement doesn’t give us quicker access to London. I think that we might have to change our earliest plan,” thought Artborg.

“It’s amazing how it all turns out worthy of note. We plan one thing, and we get quite another,” said Hezzord, who had his head raised.

After this, our friends’ bullets hit the last helicopter circling over their heads.

“It’s not so bad,” Kathy assessed the situation.”

“It may be a long way until we’ll be more secure,” said Kelly.

“It’s frightening to imagine how much money our enemies have spent to ambush us here in Germany. We must be worth a lot,” said Kelly.

“They’ll split the cost among each other. After all, they push others to do their dirty work. They won’t be divided because of the costs,” said Griff.

“Even if they split the costs, it will still hurt them to the wallet,” laughed Miel.

“You can’t find worse idiots than those working for the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements*, no matter how far and wide you’ll search,” added Mennon.

“With their actions, the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* pull everyone down. This problem should be solved as quickly as possible,” said Selen.

“It’s only our fault that we got into this ambush,” Artborg blamed himself and his friends for what happened.

“There are so many agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. And they all managed to get to Cologne,” said Kate.

“As soon as we can acquire that *magic wand*, we can go again anywhere in the world, in an instant,” said Kelly.

“The problem is that our British allies are no longer the guardians of the *magic wand*. We can’t just go to Zondon empty handed,” said Katty.

“If the forces of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* would not gain control to all ports there would be no problems. After all, they can’t be everywhere,” said Griff.

“After securing the *magic wand*, we would no longer fear our enemies. Then we can finally beat them,” said Hezzord.

“The Attorand’ Sword, combined with the *magic wand* will help us defeat any enemy. After all, there is nothing more dangerous than this rattlesnake mixture,” said Mennon.

“I think that the keeper of the *magic wand* would be Dmitry. He’s the most suitable celebrity to hold this title,” said Kate.

“I don’t think so. After all, he is the keeper of the Attorand’ sword. And keeping the *magic wand* will be too much of a burden,” said Artborg, who had a lifelong dream to become himself the keeper of the Attorand’ sword. But the sword didn’t choose him. And now he hopes that at least the magic wand will do.

“He, who doesn’t believe that Dmitry is the rightful keeper of Attorand’s Sword, will become the keeper of the *magic wand*,” reminded them Hezzord.

“In magic stories, often happen that few magic items are kept by one master,” added Kathy.

“I think that each one of us has dreamed at some point in time, of being the keeper of the *Attorand’ Sword*, or the *magic wand*. But certain dreams don’t always come true,” thought Kelly.

“However, each of us has his or her shortcomings. And to be a keeper, one must be impeccable,” reasoned Griff, in the hope that he will become the keeper of the *magic wand*.

“Each of us has got his or her place in the sun. I don’t care which one of us will be the keeper of this *magic wand*. The main thing is that it doesn’t get into the wrong hands. Then it will be a problem,” admitted Miel.

“Take me for example. I’m older than any of you. I’ve lived in Zondon all my life. And I still couldn’t become a keeper. And our Dmitry has been chosen when he was only fourteen,” academician Mennon reminded them.

“You’re his teacher. You can be proud that you could teach such an extraordinary student,” said Selen.

Meanwhile, the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* have decided to resort to magic. Our heroes had to have a go at it too.

“Indeed, most of us are young. I personally wouldn’t be offended, if I won’t become the keeper of the *magic wand*,” said Artborg, who finally changed his opinion.

“We will influence the fate of the *world of wizards*, which would be proud to remember our names,” said Hezzord.

“We contribute to the Zondon’s future. We create an indestructible alliance for our people,” said Artborg.

“I hope that somehow, we would be able to get out of this ambush. We’d probably be here for ages,” said Kate.

“Of course, we will succeed. It all depends on how much we’ll have to pay for this success,” said Kelly.

“Perhaps the price we’ll pay will be so great, that not every one of us will be able to pay for it,” continued Griff.

“If one of us will die, he or she will get a decoration,” said Kate.

“I have just received information that the troops of the *Magic German Army* are about fifteen miles to the west. They can’t come to our aid, because they were also ambushed,” said Mennon.

“So we have to rely only on ourselves. Who would have thought, that we would be ambushed in the heart of a West European city.

“The battle between the forces of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *German Magic Army* could go on for a long time. It means that the road further west is now blocked for us. Now, we must find another route,” said Artborg, and he reloaded his gun.

“Even after the agents’ squad of the *Order of the Inquisition* will be finally defeated, it would still be not safe to drive on the previous route,” said Kate, and she shot right on target.

“The defeated squad of our enemies will hide on these lands for a long time. We’d better stay away from them,” said Kelly, as she has launched a new spell.

“I suggest we travel further through the Netherlands and Belgium and the *North Sea* coast. After what happened today, it’s our best option,” said Hezzord. He then struck his magic rod to the ground. Every one of the enemy vehicles was blown off the road.

“I think that this changing of our route, is a good idea. I like it,” said Griff. And he grabbed a big gun from his car boot.

“This is the most sensible way, out of this situation. The main problem is, it would take us to sea,” said Miel and he changed his weapons.

“As soon as we get to Rotterdam, the biggest port in Europe, which is in the Netherlands, or to Antwerp in Belgium, whichever the case, if we would lucky, we could get very quickly to England by sea,” said Mennon.

“We have nothing to lose if we choose this route. We could see new countries,” said Selen and he pulled a second pistol from his holster.

“By doing so, we minimise the danger. We also throw our enemy off our backs,” said Artborg and he opened fire.

“We are on an exciting journey. Will need to point this out in our future books we will write. So our manuscripts will have even greater success,” said Kate.

“As soon as we’ve left Zondon, I’ve started to write about our adventures, a sketch for the new book,” said Kelly.

“When we were in Berlin, I think I saw your books on the shelves of a bookstore,” said Griff.

“I’m a fan of your books. I have all your collection. I’m waiting for new books,” said Griff, while knocking down an enemy helicopter.

“In our country, your books are very popular. I read them too and love it,” said Selen.

“We can’t cross now to the other side of the river. We don’t know how many are waiting for us,” said Hezzord.

“I too would be happy to leave this place. Unfortunately it isn’t possible yet. The squad of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order Elements* were joined by a half a dozen of the same enemy vehicles on duty nearby. This stopped our heroes to flee.

“Something seems missing. The things went uphill for us. New enemy agents came,” sighed Artborg.

“We have to get out of here as soon as possible. Enemy paratroopers can now be deployed wherever they want to,” complained Kathy.

“It's a temporary setback for us. As soon as we get the *magic wand* everything will return to normal,” said Hezzord.

“Well, there is no way to know, how did they found out about our route,” said Griff.

“We'll find out. The magic gateways will again belong to the people, not the forces of darkness,” said Miel.

“Whenever we came here, we've always got help. But this time we simply have to get out of this ambush,” said Mennon.

“We met a passable barrier on our way. I think that we can overcome it,” summed Selen.

“If we had not turned back to the river, we would have eluded our enemy squad. But now they are also fighting the *German Magic Army*. So I have no regrets. Everything that happens, it happens for the better,” judged Artborg.

“It's frightening to imagine what would have happened if the *German Magic Army* didn't work so smoothly, blocking our enemy agents' route towards us,” said Kelly.

“The *German Magic Army* is fighting a great deal against our enemy squadron, which was sent by the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*, thus weakening their coalition,” said Kate.

“We almost got into an encirclement from which escape would have been impossible,” said Miel.

“We don't have much fuel left in the car. How much fuel we carry, is important. We didn't refuel earlier, so we are in danger to stop in the middle of road, far from any petrol station,” said Griff.

“If each of us could manage to leave this place in one piece, it would be very, very good,” said Griff.

“That would be a miracle. Things are made worse by the lack of fuel. We should've filled up our car when we weren't pursued. Now it's a bit late to lament over that,” said Artborg.

“Who would have thought that this would happen? As I remember, the last time we refuelled, it was in Poland,” said Griff.

“This wouldn't be the first time when we filled our car while on the run,” said Artborg as he continued to fire a machine gun.

“We filled once in Zondon, then in the Republic of Belarus, the third time in Poland. Each time we paid cash. The last time it was Arhir and Barhir who paid for petrol,” said Kelly.

“Back home, our enemies are saving their pennies. And here in Western Europe, they spend a fortune to send entire squadrons of undercover agents,” said Kathy, who couldn't believe that these things were possible.

“If you have told me before, I would have not believed you. Now I see it with my own eye,” said Griff.

“On the other hand, our allies’ troops are helpful to us. They toss our enemies as they wish,” said Kelly.

“Our enemies are odd people. All their life, they are selfish and eager to hold on to power,” Hezzord has opened all the others eyes to the truth.

“They do things so badly, that they no longer know what to do,” said Mennon.

“The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* have been around for a very long time. They don’t want to become history,” said Griff and he threw a grenade.

“At the beginning, the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* were Zondon’s allies. But one day they abandoned Zondon,” said Miel who remembered the history.

“We are in no way trying to destroy the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. We only want them to get back their sanity and form an alliance with us,” said Miel.

“We were able to form an alliance with the *Order of Fire* and partly with the *Order of the Earth*. And that’s just the beginning,” said Selen, and he hit with his gun an inquisitor, who was obviously too close to them.

“Big changes are coming. Soon everything will change. People no longer want to live like that,” said Kelly.

“In recent times, the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* have become more accommodating. Some might think that they do this for the people. But that is because they are as pressed by times. It’s not their merit. They don’t need to pay attention, because they don’t do this from the heart,” said Kate.

“None of them have any brains. They make sure that the ordinary man lives in fear,” said Kelly.

“I don’t understand how can one have such misconceptions about the world as they have,” said Kate.

“Well, they are dumb,” said Griff, who with the help of magic managed to knock out all the windows of an armoured enemy vehicle. And it was a big step to victory.

“What are we going to do with them, if they don’t want to join our alliance? I wish we could make up our minds,” said Kelly.

“The agents with whom we are fighting, are as crazy as their leaders from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*,” said Kate.

Finally, our heroes managed to break through a public garden. But they couldn’t leave before they could fill up their car with petrol. So they had an idea.

“Cover me. I need to reach to those wrecked enemy vehicles, which are on the bridge. I want to take out some fuel,” called Artborg.

“Can we still wait a little bit? The battle us not over yet,” said Kate.

“We have very little petrol left. The gauge on our car’s dashboard indicates *empty*. We run the risk to get stuck in the middle of nowhere,” has warned Kelley.

“There is no time. Let him go. I’ll cover him,” promised Hezzord, making a step forward.

“And I'll help you too. Without fuel, we will never get out of this ambush,” Mennon supported the others.

“I'll go with you Artborg. Without any help it might be difficult for you. But together we can bring more petrol,” volunteered Griff.

“Go and don't listen to anyone. I'll cover you two,” Miel supported his friends.

“If it weren't for the petrol, we would have left this place much earlier,” grunted Selen.

“I'm ready,” said Artborg, leaving his car. It's no longer useful to them in this battle. They needed a bit of luck, to be able to scoop few jerry cans of petrol from the enemy cars.

“We'll cover for you. I'm sure you could do it,” said Kate with her fingers crossed.

“It seems to me that you sacrifice Artborg and Griff,” Kelly said to Hezzord.

“Go, and do what you have to do. Don't worry about anything else. We will cover for you,” promised Hezzord.

Artborg and Griff walked to the rear of an enemy car. It was a car, which was wrecked at the front. They checked its fuel tank and it was full of fuel.

“I think we should take with us the whole fuel tank,” Artborg said to Griff. “It would be silly to go back and forth.

“If it's an order, I'll do my best to carry it out,” said Griff.

“Artborg and Griff you're nice guys. Three cheers for you,” shouted Miel.

“Don't hurry them. The fuel tank is very heavy,” Mennon cautioned Miel.

“If you knew that the tank is so heavy, you should've carried the fuel in your jerry cans,” said Selen.

“It's easy for you to say. I'm under direct enemy fire,” Artborg said to Selen.

“I think we've taken the right decisions under these circumstances,” said Griff.

“Our men can solve even these problems, which at first glance seem impossible,” said Kathy.

“Would any of you dare to repeat this refuelling act?” Hezzord asked the young women.

“I'm undecided. It depends. I don't want to put my life in danger without need. But to do what Artborg and Griff did, I think I could,” said Kelly.

“Without the courage and perseverance of Artborg and Griff, we'd still be without petrol,” agreed Mennon.

“Or does anyone else want to put his or her life on the line and go and bring more petrol?” said Miel.

“In any case, the fuel is in our hands. This means that we can leave this place any time. But first, we have to transfer the petrol into our car,” summed Selen.

They filled their car under enemy fire. Then they drove off, but the enemies were still chasing them.

“I hope we still manage to get away from them. After all, we can't drive with them tailing us to London,” said Artborg.

“Of course we can. They were after us since we've left,” Hezzord grinned.

“I trust our cars, because they are much better than our enemies cars. Having been already in so many ambushes, our car has never failed us,” recalled Mennon.

“When we were in Poland, Arhir and Barhir have fixed our cars. But after this attack on us, we may need to take our car for some minor repairs,” said Kate, and she continued to fire from the car.

“I certainly expect that during our long drive we might be ambushed. But I couldn’t imagine that they would send two squadrons of agents,” admitted Kelly.

“Once they have sent so many agents here to stop us, it means they believe that our lives are worth it. We are a very influential figures in Zondon,” added Griff.

“By sending only well known people, Zondon has shown its wisdom,” explained Miel. While her boyfriend Griff drove the car, she continued to fire at enemy vehicles.

“And here is the Cologne Zoo. Our enemy didn’t let us visit this place,” sighed Selen.

“Mennon, you and I had great times in Zondon, when you were counsellor of Queen Abellin,” said Artborg with nostalgia.

“Well at least we managed to visit the Cologne Cathedral. Sorry that we didn’t have time to get to the Chocolate Museum,” added Hezzord.

“Don’t worry. We’ve come a long way. There are still lots of things we can see,” said Mennon who tried to comfort everyone.

“We can still see Holland, Belgium, France and England before we find ourselves at our destination,” said Kate naming the countries, which they will soon visit.

“Don’t you think we’re going too fast? We still haven’t got rid of the agents that are following us,” said Griff with a slight irritation in his voice.

“Around the next corner we turn to the south-west. This road will lead us to Amsterdam,” Miel told everyone.

“Well, today we had a busy day. But the main thing is that we’re on the right track,” thought Selen.

“Most importantly, we managed to get out of the ambush. But we are still being chased,” said Artborg and he fired his gun.

“For how long are we going to keep on like this? The Magic German Army still can’t deal with our enemy agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. How many of them are still sitting there,” said Hezzord.

“Artborg, if you haven’t been with us, we would’ve been captured by the main squad of the Order of the Inquisition and *Order of the Elements*,” said Mennon

“I wonder when all this be over, so we can breathe safely,” said Kate.

“Despite the fact that inside the EU there are no marked borders, there must be some troops somewhere near the border with the Netherlands, said Kelly.

“We are being chased by six cars. There must be a place where we can stop,” said Griff. He threw a grenade at an enemy’s car, which was driving behind him.

“There are only five cars following us now,” said Miel.

“So far there is nothing we can do about it. We’ll have to wait a bit,” added Selen.

“Could you please think positive? There is no need to worry because five cars are chasing us,” said Artborg.

“I don’t even want to think what would happen, if ten cars followed us,” said Mennon.

“Everything is under control. I have just received information that the German Magic Army, has finally managed to surround an army of enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“Well, you see how everything turns out well? The situation isn’t so scary as it seems at first glance,” said Kate.

“We still have to drive another twenty kilometres to the Netherlands. The chase will stop there,” said Kelly.

“Enemy agents were able to wait in a place where seemingly nothing wrong could happen,” said Griff.

“If we wouldn’t have gone back to the eastern side of the Rhine, we could’ve avoided this,” said Kate.

“If the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* will continue at the same pace to rush their agents after us, then one day they’ll be without an army.

Time passed, but there wasn’t any rush, and every moment, our heroes were getting closer to Holland.

“When the *Order of the Inquisition* and *the Order of Elements* will recruit new people, the situation around them will change straight away. This time, they don’t have to wait that long,” said Artborg.

“We drove almost the whole way. But we are still in peril, as long as the situation continues to heat up around us,” said Hezzord.

“It’s great shame that the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*, have already invested so much money in this venture to kill us. And they continue to waste more money until they get rid of us,” said Kate.

“A month ago, even before the outbreak of hostilities, in a castle of the *North Inquisition*,

Zondon and *Zondon Inquisition* could not agree with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. After that they’ve started this bloody war. But I believe that there will be another meeting. Then our side will be able to contact the other side,” said Kelly.

“I sense a storm is brewing. It will affect us as well, of course,” laughed Griff.

“The thing is that a further disintegration of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* will continue in the near future. While the forces of darkness are still breathing, we will have a lot of work to do,” explained Miel.

“I totally agree with you. Even if the complete destruction of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* is required, we still need more time to finish what we are doing,” has agreed Mennon.

“Each of us was pleased by the news that the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth* have finally amalgamated with *Zondon*,” said Selen. He then pressed the eject button. Spikes fell on the road from the back of their car. Three black 4WD cars continued to drive faster. They distanced themselves from the pursuing cars, which stopped with flat tyres.

“This is great for *Zondon*,” said Artborg. He looked in the rear view mirror to see what's going on behind him.

“We have travelled almost all the way from Cologne to Netherlands, and I’m still not that happy,” said Hezzord.

“We had to leave immediately for Holland. And this time there won’t be any ambush,” said Kathy.

“Cologne is a wonderful city. I don’t regret at all that we’ve stopped there,” explained Kelly.

“Every country where we go is nicer than the previous one,” said Griff, throwing out on the road more spikes.

“I’d say that the UK would be the nicest,” smiled Miel.

“We shouldn’t fail with this task. We should reach London as we are now,” Mennon reminded everyone what to do.

“I have no idea where the *Order Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* learned such skilful manoeuvres. Back home they couldn’t cope. They are usually no match to us,” said Selen.

“The not so strong have died. So they’ve selected two squadrons from the best soldiers they had,” explained Artborg.

“Therefore, the last battle was the most difficult. This time we fought their most skilled fighters,” said Kate.

“We must think carefully before we go into any fight with them,” said Kelly.

“We are doing our best. I think we carry on well with our task,” said Selen.

“I’m afraid to drive over the speed limit. If I did, we would have the watch on our back,” said Griff.

“Drive the way you think is right. We’ll get there anyway. I think that the speed limit is OK,” said Artborg.

“Do you think that enemy agents are just chasing us? In reality they are trying to kill us,” said Kate.

“I’m too tired of constantly bending down my head. But I had to do it. I had to dodge the bullets,” said Kelly.

“After lots of skirmishes, this situation begins to seem familiar. But don’t forget, you are fighting for your life,” said Artborg.

“I wasn’t involved in as many battles as you. But I’m too familiar with this feeling,” admitted Hezzord.

“Everyone thought that after the second war with the dead, there would be peace. But it wasn’t so. The world still continue to inflame conflicts and bloody wars,” sighed Kate.

“Remember how the story ended with the Zondon’s union with the magic small nations? Luckily that war was averted. It nearly ignited into a full war,” added Kelly.

“After the collapse of the coalition between the *Light* and the *Magic People*, and indeed because of their support, we won the second war with the dead. In that coalition with us, there was only Zondon Inquisition. Zondon was already looking for new allies,” said Griff.

“As a result, the *City of the Necromancers* and the *Village Hermits* withdrew troops that were helping Zondon. It almost led to bloodshed,” said Miel.

“Let's hope that everything is still OK, and the Coalition of Light Magic People is still intact,” said Mennon.

“I'd like to know when the alliance between the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will end,” said Selen.

“After the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* fall, their legacy will still be felt. They've brought with them terrible evils such as the use of black magic. We must stop it once and for all. For how long these evils exist, the war won't end,” pronounced Artborg.

“As we discover how our enemies organizations function, we see that evil surrounds them. And we had to deal with that already,” said Mennon.

“Horrible experiments on human beings are carried out in its name. I think that St. Petersburg's should clean up its acts,” said Kate.

“It's safe to say that because of them, some dead raised from their graves and terrorized everyone around,” said Kelly.

“We solved this problem ten years ago. Before we tackled this situation they were overwhelmed,” explained Griff.

“I don't know what's going on. It could be that doomsday comes. Who knows what is waiting at the end for every one of us,” said Kate.

“The end of the world won't come. That's for sure. But my heart feels the hassles. There is more to come,” said Kelly.

“We are talking about the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. These two names bring a lot of pain to me,” said Kate.

As they have already reached the border with Holland, our heroes felt that the chase was over.

“But, as Zondon gets new power, it also gets more responsibility with it,” said Artborg.

“On the other hand, as Zondon gets possession of new lands, he simply must answer for them,” said Kathy.

“I think that once we get full control, we will then deal with it better than the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*,” said Kelly.

“All of this is just wishful thinking. It isn't that simple,” grinned Mennon.

“We will make Zondon the leading magic city in Europe, and the richest in the world,” has promised Hezzord.

“We either unite, or we split our country. We will pledge a decent future for every citizen,” said Griff.

“I wonder what is there in store for us in Holand and Belgium,” asked Miel.

“The notebook of Arhir and Barhir says that very soon we will have to find allies coming from Zondon. Do you think is true?” asked Selen.

“They are never wrong with their predictions. I think that is true,” said Artborg.

“Now it's mid-autumn. In Russia everyone wears warm clothes. Here it's still warm, and I see the people wearing summer clothes,” said Kate.

“The weather in Western Europe is much warmer. I think it has something to do with the Gulf Stream, which is a warm water current coming into Europe from the Gulf of Mexico. Russia is too far away inland. This warm current of water could

never warm up the temperatures inland. That's way we have such cold winters," said Selen.

"If our troops are able to capture a few more positions, the situation around us will change dramatically. Zondon would pull the strings, not the *Order of the Inquisition*," said Artborg.

"If there would be a revolt inside the *West Inquisition* and father Trey would be shot, then Zondon would have found a reliable ally. And together we could defeat the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. But this is just a dream for the time being," said Miel.

"I think that in recent times, Zondon pays more attention to the *Order of the Elements*. And it doesn't forget about the unstable *West Inquisition* and father Trey in particular," said Griff.

"Zondon believes if the *Order of the Elements* gains strength, it won't stop us deal with the *Order of the Inquisition*. In fact it will be much easier, said Kate.

"I also adhere to this view, and it has worked flawlessly," said Kelly.

As our heroes drove through Holand's countryside, they weren't chased anymore. This ease was courtesy of the Dutch Magic Army, which was on duty nearby. Our heroes felt happy for the first times in days.

CHAPTER EIGHT

AMSTERDAM

Our heroes were no longer able to go further south. So they had to drive west to the border with Holland and Belgium. Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kathy, Kelly, Griff, Miel and Selen found themselves in Holland, after spending the night in the car. The next morning, they met with their former friends Neon and Leagun, who were sent from Zondon as extra help. Neon and Leagun were sent here to help our friends' squad to pass undetected through these places. They had enough time to get accustomed to this area. Therefore, they were guides to our friends.

"It's great that we have finally met again. There are many enemy agents here in Holland and Belgium, who belong to the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. Without our help, you might get into trouble," said Neon.

"We have had enough time to find out all the agents' hiding spots of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements*. I think that if you drive with us, you won't get lost. If we follow our route, we will be able to see all the local attractions. I can assure you that there won't be any ambushes," said Leagun.

"Neon, it isn't your organization that I put my faith in. It's you. I'm so glad to see you," said Kelly.

"It must've been long time since I've known you. I remember you even when you attended your first course at the *Zondon Academy*," said Artborg, who was glad to see his friend.

"Queen Abellin had a surprise in store for us. She had sent you here," said Kate, who was glad to see two of her best friends.

“When you were a student, you were colleagues with Leagun at Uni. You had so many adventures,” remembered Kelly.

“I hope you know that under the command of your ex-girlfriend Galite, plus Ditte and Gamma, they have managed to take the *Order of Fire*. And you Leagun, you and Miel have occupied and taken over the castle of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Hezzord.

“When Leagun was a student, he lived at Kate’s apartment. Your entire team loved often to gather at our house. Only you Griff, you haven’t visited us. I don’t know why,” said Mennon.

“Neon and Leagan, my good old friends, you are here with me. You can’t even imagine how happy I am to see you all here in Holland,” Griff shared his feelings. “It’s a pity that I’m not with you anymore. But I don’t regret at all meeting Griff,” said Miel.

“Neon, my friend, I still can’t understand why did you, and your organization broke up with Ditta and Gamma. You and Gamma were a beautiful couple. You could’ve kept your relationship,” said Selen, who was perplexed.

“How many times I’ve talked on this subject? But I will repeat it again. My former girlfriend and I, we broke up on friendly terms. We just went separate ways. It’s a pity that we could no longer be together,” Neon told them the same story. “It’s very difficult to explain. One day we’ve suddenly realized that we could no longer be together. We are too different from each other. I’m very fond of my former girlfriend. Our ways have moved further and further apart. I don’t know what’s happening to us,” Neon continued his story.

“During all this time you’ve had to convince us, that without your help, we are in danger. Enemy agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* are everywhere. And these agents wish to ambush us,” Artborg laughed. “You came here much earlier than us. You had more time to become familiar with the surroundings,” said Kathy.

“And we hope you will be able to guide us through these countries, without any incident. That’s way they’ve sent you here,” Kelly continued to say.

“Even before we’ve reached Holland, we were ambushed many times. We hope that this time we will be safer,” Hezzord told them.

“You seem to have managed to get here without incidents. Two daggers travelling through Western Europe won’t draw any attention from our enemy agents. After all, so many daggers have emigrated here after the second war with the dead,” said Mennon.

“And our fate brings us together yet again. One day I had to show my old friends to my girlfriend,” added Griff.

“We are still under pressure, following the last ambush,” complained Miel.

“For example, two squadrons of enemy agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* have landed in Germany. I still don’t understand. Their army was defeated back home. But they still operate in foreign countries,” said Selen.

In Arhir Barhir's notebook it was written that our friends would meet some allies who would come from Zondon. And all of them would go on their route through Holland.

"Our enemy agents are infiltrated everywhere. They're watching our every move. We know where they are. And we also know where they won't be at a particular time of the day," said Neon.

"At least, we are here since last week. We still haven't seen one single enemy agent," said Leagun.

"Once Queen Abellin has sent you here, then it's considered that you are the most worthy candidate for this job," agreed Artborg.

"You can't argue with this. Queen Abellin always knows whom to send to do any task. She is never wrong," agreed Hezzord.

"I saw her. Queen Abellin came many times to my country. I like her very much," said Miel.

"Tell me, what route are we taking?" Selen asked Neon a direct question.

"We don't yet know. All depends if enemy agents are already there," admitted Neon.

"The map of our route will change during the journey. Here in Holland there are lots of detours, and we must not fall into any trap," added Leagun.

"Don't you think that this plan is a failure? You still don't know the road we are taking?" asked Griff.

"Unlike you, I have no doubt in Neon and Leagun. And I believe that they can lead us safely to France," said Kate.

"We know them for a long time. We simply have to trust them," said Kelly.

"How can I go anywhere without knowing where I go?" said Mennon.

"Leagun and I, we know these places better than anyone else. Without our help, you would have already fallen into another trap," said Neon.

"We have a map which shows all the positions of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* in Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Saar region, and the surrounding lands. But enemy agents are constantly moving. So our map is constantly changing," said Leagun.

"You can show us your map. Only in this way we would trust what you say," said Artborg.

"We were already wondering why you haven't told us anything about it," said Hezzord, who came to his senses.

"I believe that you'll continue to follow your secret route," said Kate.

"What about your miracle map. Don't forget to show it to us. We want to look at it," said Kelly.

"Yes, of course," said Neon. And he took out of the glove box a large map. He placed it on the magic scanner sending it to all the other friends, who were driving in the other cars.

"If you don't want to follow our route, you can leave us at any moment," Leagun and Neon have warned the others.

"I believe you. You have done great work to compile this map," said Griff.

“Once Queen Abellin has realized that we need you here with us, and she had sent you to help us, I guess that we should accept this as a fact,” said Miel.

“It’s been only a week since we left Zondon. We were managing OK. I don’t understand why you two were sent to assist us,” Mennon drew the attention of the others.

“We shouldn’t argue. We are on an equal footing. And we have a common goal,” summed up Selen.

“You’ve said some fine words. We are here to keep all of our agents together. If we succeed doing that, then we could get to the next step,” said Neon.

“Ok my friends, relax. I know this land like I know the back of my palm,” boasted Griff.

“We believe you from the bottom of our hearts. If not, we would never speak to you again,” said Artborg.

“Britain had always had a great influence here in Holand. Almost everyone here knows English, and confess Protestantism,” said Hezzord.

“In the eighteenth century, Holland was even part of the United Kingdom. Even before that, Holland had great influence on parts of France and Germany,” Kathy explained.

“This is a very old land, and people live here almost from the time of the Roman Empire,” added Kelly.

“We haven’t soiled our reputation. No one else knows that we’re here,” boasted Neon.

“While you were on your way through Germany, we weren’t wasting any time. We evaluated each agent,” explained Leagun.

“We already knew that you weren’t wasting any time,” responded Griff.

“If we were sent to help you, we would’ve done the same thing,” said Miel.

“Due to the fact that the armies of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* infiltrated all ports, we were the first who had to travel around Europe by car.” said Mennon.

“Our enemies action shook the whole world. People will remember this for a long time,” said Selen.

“If you try to go on your own, you’ll quickly find yourself a prisoner of the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*,” said Neon.

“All ports from which we could embark for UK are manned with some of our enemies’ agents. Now our enemies can keep an eye on who embarks from these ports,” said Neon.

“And it will go on for a while. But as time goes by, it will cost our enemies a fortune to keep men in every port,” said Artborg.

“Our enemies are playing for time. But soon they will go bust,” said Hezzord.

“They’ve bribed, and also used intimidation. Now they have their hand in every port,” said Kathy.

“Not only in Zondon were traitors. In some Joint European Magic Army there were traitors too. No wonder that all the ports fell under the wrong influence,” said Kelly.

“Their people have worked so well and with no trouble, that no one ever suspected anything. Now all the ports are infiltrated,” said Neon.

“That was a big defeat for the cooperation between Zondon and the European Magic Army. If we don’t want to lose anything else, we must continue to be more careful.

We don’t want lose our lives, do we?” said Griff.

“Our enemies were able to deal us a crushing blow, while we were having fun. This leaves us without the possibility of going out to sea,” explained Miel.

“They are not going to let go of the magic ports. They’ll do anything to stop us,” said Mennon.

“On the other hand, we’ve crushed the *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Earth*. This says something,” summed up Selen.

Meanwhile, the cars in which our heroes drove, went to Utrecht, and had just passed on the main street.

“*The Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* lose status not only in the worldwide sphere. They lose ground in their own country,” said Artborg.

“I hope that one day we will wake up and everything will be completely different,” sighed Hezzord.

“The *Attorand’ sword* and the *Magic staff* is a wild mix. These will give Zondon the cutting edge, and none can not stop us,” said Mennon.

“I don’t want to upset you, but we hit a dead end. If we wish to get out of here, we’ll have to get rid of one of the yawning agents. Otherwise we will be stuck here,” said Neon.

“Isn’t it any other way out of this situation? It would be better not to leave any clues behind,” said Kate.

“If you have any other plan, we will listen to you. But you should know this. On this stretch of road, our enemy agents are on duty around the clock,” said Neon.

“We need to simply distract their attention, by staging some riots. They would leave their spots to see what’s going on,” said Kelly.

“It’s a good idea. Let’s do that,” said Griff.

“If we could make a small explosion, and blow up the pole of a street lamp, all our enemy agents would come running to look at the scene. In the meantime we will be able to slip unnoticed past them. And we’ll vanish from sight,” said Miel.

“What a brilliant idea. We will also get away without being seen by our enemy’s agents,” Selen agreed to this plan.

“You know, I even have a grenade with time-delay explosion. I think it’s useful to us,” said Artborg.

“I love these grenades. Give that to me. I know what to do with it,” said Neon.

“Do you see how everything turns out well? We wouldn’t like to kill anyone. We have just embarked on a long journey,” said Hezzord.

“We’ve often used such tactics at the beginning of our journey here. But it takes too long time. We simply lodge a bullet in the head of an unsuspecting enemy agent, from a pistol with a silencer,” Neon shared his experience with the others.

“Do you see how everything turns out well? And you would like to kill someone at the beginning our long journey,” said Hezzord.

“We stopped many times in Amsterdam. We know it inside out,” boasted Neon.

“Normally, in Amsterdam we won’t find enemy agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. So far, this is one of the safest cities in this country. There are many tourists, and it’s very well protected by the local army,” said Leagun. And unnoticed by the others, he threw a grenade with time-delay in the trash.

After the explosion, our heroes waited until their enemy agents came running to the scene. Then, our heroes went around a house, and they drove back to the main road. They’ve got out of the impasse once again.

“Wow, we fooled them, didn’t we,” said Artborg. Meanwhile they were driving along an empty road, leaving the duped agents far behind.

“We are already driving to Amsterdam. Our enemy agents don’t have a clue where we are,” Hezzord laughed.

“For the rest of the day we have to drive through Holland, without stopping. Tonight we will drive through Belgium, and tomorrow we’ll be in France,” said Grif.

“We’ll arrive in Amsterdam,” Miel tried to cheer up his mates.

“North and South Holland are just two of the twelve provinces of Holland,” Mennon explained to the ones who didn’t know this.

“In a short time Zondon will get its *magic wand*. It will be for the best,” Selen reminded them.

“I wonder if *Zealand* Province in Holland has anything in common with *New Zealand* in the South Pacific. The South Pacific nation, might’ve taken its name from this province,” said Kelly.

“I know only that the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman has discovered the Australian Island of Tasmania,” explained Kathy.

“Our heroes arrived in Amsterdam, the main city of Holland. It was quiet, because the local authorities simply had to ensure safety. With the current situation in Europe, and the infiltrations of the *Order of the Inquisitions* and the *Order of the Elements*, the local authorities had to be careful. We promised we would bring you to this city in one piece. We kept our side of the bargain,” said Neon.

“I think that our enemy agents would like to ambush us. We’ll go and see the local sights of Amsterdam. If everything goes smoothly as planned we will soon get going,” said Artborg.

“If we hurry, the ambushers won’t see us. If you’ll follow our instructions, you will be able to see all the tourist attractions in Holland and Belgium. And on top of that, we’ll go to France as well. Without us, you won’t make it,” said Leagun.

“I hate group tours. I prefer to travel alone. The only way to really connect to the local atmosphere, is if I’d become a local resident,” Kathy shared her feelings.

“I wonder what day you plan to show us the *Museum of History* of the City of Amsterdam, the *National Gallery of Art*, where Rembrandt and Van Gogh’s famous paintings are,” said Kelly.

“Frankly we don’t know what are we going to see. It all depends on how much time we have. But we should begin with the historic city, admitted Neon.

“You want to say that we’re going to see the Royal Palace, the Dam Square and the National Monuments,” asked Griff.

“We are already here. So why shouldn’t we see all of these,” agreed Miel.

“We must use wisely the time we have,” Mennon continued to express his concern.

“Are you one hundred percent sure that there are no enemy agents in Amsterdam?” asked Selen.

“This place is well guarded. Our enemies will find it impossible to infiltrate here,” said Leagun.

After coming up to the *Dam Square*, the heroes came to the *National Monument*, which reaches to the sky.

“Here, as in the centre of any European city, it’s full of foreign tourists. Many show their talents,” observed Neon.

“Well, London, Paris, Madrid, Amsterdam, these cities are always filled with tourists,” said Kathy.

“And these are already in one single *European Union*,” said Leagun.

“Why are the statues depicting naked people?” asked Kelly.

“I’m afraid this question is open for discussion. It would be hard for me to answer, because there are too many people around us. Tourists from all over the world, and local people are searching for this answer. But I would say that the artists have followed the ancient Greek sculpting tradition. It symbolises purity. Apparently, this monument is associated with the victims of World War II,” said Artborg.

“If we continue to go in this direction, we see the Amstel River. The city of Amsterdam is placed on its banks,” said Hezzord.

“Here is the Royal Palace, and the New Church. But we won’t have time to visit them, otherwise we don’t have time to look at other cities,” said Neon.

“They say that when you visit the Royal Palace you feel like a monarch. I don’t know if that it’s true or not,” said Leagun.

“Our day is just beginning. I sincerely hope that we will be able to travel the entire Holland, visiting at least few main cities,” said Mennon.

“So far, everything is going according to our plan. I think that by the evening, we will be able to get to Belgium,” said Griff.

“We have come a long way with the intention to reach England. Hands up who thinks we are close,” said Miel.

“We still have to reach Belgium and France. Then, the *magic wand* will be in our hands,” summed Selen.

“From Amsterdam or Brussels, London can be reached in just a few hours by train. But this route is too dangerous for us. So we’ll continue our trip by car,” said Artborg.

“It’s okay. We will see so many interesting things in those countries,” said Hezzord looking to the bright side of life.

“Tell us, how many times have you stayed for the night anywhere, before getting to Holland,” asked Neon.

“We had to relax. If not, we wouldn’t have got here,” said Kate.

“And in most cases, didn’t we stopped because we had a reason to stop?” continued Kelly.

“Yes we know. But if you’d not stopped to visit Arhir and Barhir, we would’ve avoided such an ambush. We nearly had lost our lives,” said Leagun.

“They gave us that notebook. It saved our lives so far,” said Griff.

“I hope that all of us have seen this notebook. It’s simply not in a plain language,” said Miel.

“We can download extra files of this notebook from the Internet, to the end of our trip. It’s being kept updated, depending on our actions,” said Selen.

“It’s true. We can see it before our eyes,” said Mennon.

The road leading to *Hague* was closed for some time. Our friends decided visit the Amsterdam Zoo, to pass their time.

“Here in Holland, everything is just like in a fairy tale,” said Artborg, and he looked around.

“What do you expect? We are in a kingdom,” recalled necromancer Hezzord.

“We have travelled so much in the countryside. But we haven’t seen any zoos. It’s not right,” said Kate.

“The way this city looks, hasn’t changed for hundreds of years,” said Kelly.

“This zoo is a botanical garden as well,” Neon drew their attention to this.

“Well, we make sure we visit it before leaving,” promised Leagun.

“I hope that from the main zoo in Amsterdam, we won’t get into an ambush,” said Grief.

“Most likely, today we’ll still be able to visit *Hague, and Rotterdam*,” said Miel who went to look at a brown bear.

“Holland is not the biggest country in the world. I think that we will travel it all in one day,” said Selen, who walked to a nearby exotic birds display.

“We have no time to visit this whole region. In the evening we have to be in Belgium. Now it’s early autumn, and it gets dark earlier,” reminded them Mennon.

“Normally, in one day we can drive through the entire length of Holland and Belgium. In the evening we could be in France. But it’s too risky, and on this stretch of road, it would be wise not to hurry,” said Artborg.

“One wrong move, and we won’t get to our destination,” agreed Hezzord.

“If all goes according to plan, within a few days we will be in London and would get the *Magic Wand*,” glad Kate.

“So many things happen to us, in just on day on this job. To a normal person these things wouldn’t happen not even over in a month,” Kelly drew everyone’s attention.

“It’s true. We tire in one day, more than a normal person would in one month. So we need to stop and refresh,” continued Neon.

“Think about how much money we would make, if we can bring to Zondon this *magic wand*,” said Leagun.

“If we stop to refresh, then we’ll waste a lot of time, and become the target of our enemies,” said Griff.

“You’re right, because always when we stopped, something bad happened,” agreed with him Miel.

“This is the first time I’m on a mission of this level. I honestly confess that I’m thrilled by it,” said Selen.

“We talk too much. Let’s go better to the botanical gardens,” said Mennon, changing the subject.

Before we leave this place, our friends decided to go back to the *Historic City Centre*, so they could find out more about the city.

“I bet this place is any man’s dream,” said Artborg when they were on the main square of the city.

“There are so many young women from all over the world. They wear colourful clothes, and they offer their services,” Hezzord licked his lips.

“Let’s just leave this red light district. It doesn’t do any justice to women in general,” said Kate.

“I never thought that there are so many tourists. In some places they even drew the red curtain,” added Kelly.

“Local residents in Amsterdam and throughout Western Europe in general, don’t live in the city centre. They have their homes away from this place, where the oldest profession is practiced. They live in the suburbs,” said Neon.

“For example, we may be the ones who are not invited here. But we still managed to get here,” said the Leagun.

“While people around the world won’t change their pint of view on the fact that it’s morally wrong, this place will exist because it’s popular,” Griff expressed his opinion.

“People around the globe have similar interests. Some people like paintings, others like good literature, etc. But there is always a third group of people who likes sex,” said Miel.

“Here the streets are so narrow. It seems that the young women behind the glass windows are among us,” said Selen.

“I have a strange feeling that we are not in Holland right now, but somewhere at an International Centre,” thought Mennon.

“This is designed to tempt and to excite the minds of many men. And the men flock here,” said Artborg.

“Why is this red district so colourful here in Holland?” asked Hezzord.

“I think it has to do with the strictness of religious morals. There had to be some escape route from the strict Protestant values,” said Mennon.

“Local people grow plants everywhere here, even in the *Red Light District*,” Kelly laughed.

“If we didn’t come here, we wouldn’t know about the city of Amsterdam, on the Amstel River,” said Neon.

“But due to the fact that we are all interested to find out, we decided to visit it. There are so many streets. One can stumble upon the *Red Light* district only by walking through the city,” added Leagun.

“It’s time for us to get out of here. Otherwise we won’t see anything else,” said Griff.

“Before I came here, I’ve thought badly about this town. But I’ve changed my mind after seeing it,” admitted Miel.

“This place is meaningless for me. It’s located in the heart of Amsterdam, but it’s one of a kind in the world,” has spoken Selen.

After getting acquainted with Amsterdam, our friends left the place, as quickly as they came, heading in the direction of *Hague*.

“If people from around the world, wouldn’t go to Amsterdam’s red-light district, this business would cease being profitable, and it would shut down,” noticed Artborg.

“We shouldn’t talk. We’ve just visited it,” added Hezzord.

“Men are attracted by this place. They easily forget why they came here for,” has explained Mennon.

“Few of those, who once visited this Amsterdam corner, they want at least to make sure that it’s all true,” said Kate.

“Few men had accidents, because they weren’t looking where they were going. Their attention was turned away by those bikini wearing young women in the windows,” added Kelly.

“In Europe, all the places are close to each other. It looks quite nice and attractive to visitors,” said Neon.

“Amsterdam is an old and eccentric city. I’m very pleased that I was there,” said Leagun.

“Very soon we will be in *Hague*. It’s a city where magic blends with non-magic. It’s famous for its windmills. Here is also the *International Court of Justice*,” said Griff.

“I think that we won’t get into an ambush,” Miel expressed her opinion.

“I think so too. But we still have to visit Rotterdam, which is ahead of us, plus the other parts of Holland. So don’t let your guard down,” advised Selen.

“It would be great if we could go safely through these regions. We shouldn’t be so sure that we might not fall into an ambush,” Artborg sighed.

“Everything will be fine. Don’t you worry! Neon and Leagun will take us safely to France,” promised Hezzord.

“Ahead of us, at the back of that office, are the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*,” Neon warned them.

“If we turn here, and take this stretch of road, we will be able to keep away from troubles,” Leagun solved the problem.

“At the beginning of our journey, I couldn’t even think that we will ever get to Amsterdam. But at this point we have already arrived. This means that is possible to get to London,” admitted Kate.

“We are still only in Holland. And during our visit, we have met so many interesting people,” said Kelly.

“More surprises are coming up. Ahead of us there are Belgium, France and the United Kingdom,” said Griff.

“Wow, we’ve tricked so many enemy agents. We got away from under their noses,” said Miel.

“If it wasn’t for the notebook given to us by our Polish friends, or for your card, we would’ve been caught into an ambush,” said Mennon.

“These magic things helped us very well. The modern magician just can’t do without them,” said the Selen.

The road to Hague took even less time than anticipated. Our heroes finally arrived in this city.

“We have little time to visit the important buildings in the city, or the *International Court of Justice*, even if these are magic or not,” said Artborg.

“Yes, but we are still going to see this city. Unless of course we run out of time,” said Hezzord.

“Here in Hague, there are three Royal Palaces, as well as many old houses that belonged to the embassies of different countries,” said Neon.

“I propose that we start our visit with non-magic attractions of this city. We would then gradually move to the magic part of this city,” proposed Leagun.

“It’s a good idea. Perhaps we should go ahead with this plan,” said Kate.

“So far everything is going according to schedule. I hope it will continue this way,” said Kelly.

“Look, this is the building. Here is the *Dutch Parliament*. The *Government of Holland* meets here,” said Griff.

“In this country the Parliament sits in a fairy-tale castle. And they also let members of the public watch from the visitor’s stand, while the members of the Parliament debate normal issues” said Miel.

“But at the Moscow’s State Duma, they don’t let any visitor watch their debates,” recalled Mennon.

“I can’t get to see my Member of Parliament. I’ve never seen him in my life,” laughed Selen.

“There are people here who have so much money, they can’t carry it in a suitcase. They would need to call a truck,” Artborg reminded them.

“In Western Europe, there are millionaires, who ride bicycles to go to the office. They don’t have any protection. But every proud millionaire in Russia must have at least one hundred bodyguards. What are they afraid of?” smiled Hezzord.

“They think that looks cool. But in reality it doesn’t look very clever,” noticed Neon.

“It’s a connection with the past. Even to this day, no country could really shake it off,” said Leagun.

“And here is the *International Court of Justice* in Hague. It’s also a beautiful building,” said Kate.

“The Government has moved on purpose to this city. It wants to work in a quiet environment. I don’t think that the tourists are that quiet,” said Kelly.

“For example, Amsterdam’s Red Light District is opposed by almost all the residents of that city. But it isn’t opposed by the powerful ones,” explained Mennon.

“Just this quarter has been around for so long, that it eventually became an integral part of this city,” summed Selen.

After seeing the non-magic part of the city, our friends decided to look at the magic part of the city. They wanted to know how the local magicians live in this city.

“I never saw with my own eye the Magic Building of the Government of this country. I would like to take a look at it,” confessed Artborg.

“I would like to find out how these buildings blend with each other in this city,” said Hezzord.

“The building of the *International Court of Justice* blends with the other buildings,” said Kate.

“I sometimes think that Zondon is already very far from here. But we haven’t travelled yet three thousand miles,” said Kelly.

“Only we know where is the Magic Building of the Government of this country, as well as the International Magic Court and we must show them to you,” promised Neon.

“London is not that far from here. But before we get to it, we need some more time,” added Leagun.

“By now, we’ve been ambushed in every country. And every ambush becomes tougher,” sighed Griff.

“Isn’t the *magic truth* in this country by any chance?” asked Miel.

“Yes it is. Don’t you see that the building is a mirror image of the Magic Government of this kingdom?” smiled Mennon.

“So magic ships and non-magic ships are also very similar to buildings?” asked Selen.

“Almost, but these do differ a little. And I think I can find ten differences,” said Artborg.

“Indeed, we have to visit the entire city,” agreed Hezzord.

“And we are very pleased, that you came to be our guides in these lands,” said Kate.

“This seems to be one of the three Royal Palaces. We’ve just passed it,” added Kelly.

“Look, what an interesting mansion. It belongs to the U.S. Embassy in this city,” said Neon after a while.

“We have travelled a sufficient distance, and soon we shall see the building of the *International Magic Court*,” said Leagun.

“Apparently this is the building of the *International Magic Court*,” said Griff who stopped his car.

“You know, I’ve imagined it in a different way,” said Miel.

“You can think of it how you like, but there is really something quite different,” Mennon corrected him.

“We have already visited three cities. One more city and we’ll be in Belgium,” said Selen.

They've spent so little time with their friends. It's time to leave this municipality. It will soon get dark. They will be in Belgium soon.

"We have common characteristics with each other. I don't know what we should do in this situation," said Neon.

"You want to say that we have to turn away from the road? You want us to choose some other way of getting there?" asked Artborg.

"We drove almost the entire Holland. We travelled safely on a road full of enemy agents. We are professionals. For us is not a big deal," said Leagun.

"We are passing through a tight spot," Hezzord told the others. He stopped in a small courtyard. Few enemy agents were on duty there.

"This is a very important moment. If something goes wrong, our enemy agents will be able to call for backup. They only have to push a button," said Kate.

"All right. I know what to do," said Neon.

When the car drove closer to the enemy agent, Neon shot the enemy agent in the head with a pistol with a silencer. Their car was able to drive on safely.

"Well you got rid of him. That *mosquito* won't bite our noses anymore," said Griff praising Neon.

"But you forgot about me," said Leagun with a high-pitched voice, imitating the buzzing of a mosquito. And he shot dead the second agent.

"We need to get out of here quickly. Someone might notice us," said Miel.

"We have plenty of time. We can stay a few more hours in this city. It would still be all-right," said Mennon.

"And you thought that we would fail. We can help each other. Our duty comes first," said Selen.

Time passed quickly, and our friends found themselves in Rotterdam. It would be the last city they would see in Holland. They've decided to stop before they could head off to Belgium.

"We know this place. We would be able to offer you protection. If you decide to go to France and England without us, you can leave us here," said Neon.

"But you should know that without us you will be prey to enemy agents," said Leagun.

"In Western Europe, where one city ends, another city begins. It's impossible for you to understand where you are," said Artborg.

"The Rotterdam City centre isn't like the rest of the city. There are many new high-rise buildings, instead of small brick houses," said Hezzord.

"Rotterdam is a city built around water. One hardly sees the land and some bridges," explained Kate.

"I have a feeling that the multi-storey buildings in the city were built on the solid ground," said Kate.

"Rotterdam is situated on the banks of two rivers — the Maas and the Rotten," said Neon.

"Antwerp City, in Belgium, it isn't like other cities in Europe. We shouldn't forget that these are huge ports," said Leagun.

“Now we go over the main bridge in Rotterdam. It’s in the form of a sail,” said Griff.

“I have to admit that the views are stunning,” said Miel after a while.

“For example, we can go to the *Historical Museum* in Rotterdam. We can see there some rare exhibits,” proposed Mennon.

“And to the *Maritime Museum* of Prince Henry. However, we have very little time,” summed Selen.

“For today we have already travelled almost the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands. We also visited four cities in this country. I believe we are good,” said Neon.

“By midnight we will have to be in Belgium,” said Leagun.

“All the major European cities have multi-storey modern centres. But people only work there. They don’t live there,” said Artborg.

“As in Amsterdam, the heart of Rotterdam is full of foreign tourists, and few local residents,” added Hezzord.

“We shouldn’t forget it has wonderful sea breezes and plenty of space. Because natural balance is very important in the life of the modern city,” said Kate.

“In the Netherlands, everyone speaks in his or her language. But almost everything is in Dutch and English,” explained Kate.

“Some speak German, or French and even Spanish. There were times in Holland’s history when they had ties with Germany, France and Spain,” said Neon.

“The main religion in Holland is Protestant Christianity. So many here speak English. The Germans and French are the closest neighbours to Holland and Belgium. But what is most interesting, in spite of the diversity of languages, everyone here tolerates each other,” said Leagun.

“I like it here in Rotterdam. It’s a pity that we can’t stay in this city any longer,” said Griff.

“At one point, the war with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* was nearly over. Zondon needs time to heal its wounds,” continued Miel.

“We spent time in Amsterdam, Hague and Rotterdam. We were able to come here in just under a week. We knew very well that the nights were getting longer,” said Mennon.

“These cities are wonderful to see at any time of day and night. Holland is also worth to look at,” said Selen.

After driving on the streets of Rotterdam, in the evening, our friends left the city. In the meantime, they were driving through Zeeland, and it was getting dark. Before midnight they had to get to Belgium.

“We had only entered Holland in the morning. And by midnight we’ll have to leave this kingdom,” said Neon.

“We are on mission not on a tourist trip. If this wasn’t true, then we wouldn’t fall into an ambush every time,” said Leagun.

“We almost managed to go through the entire Holland. I think we will just enter Belgium quietly,” said Artborg.

“Tell me, because I’m curious. Which one of you enjoyed seeing this country?” asked Hezzord.

“It’s really impossible to see the four cities in one day. But everything was great, and I really enjoyed everything, especially the city of Amsterdam,” said Kate.

“We started our trip in Utrecht. We then drove to Amsterdam, Hague and Rotterdam. I’m happy that I could guide you so far,” said Neon.

“What did you like in this country?” asked Leagun.

“It was fun for us to compare Hague’s magic and non-magic buildings,” said Griff.

“I also liked Rotterdam. I would like to know this city better. It’s a modern city,” said Miel.

“Why are you quiet? Are you tired? What do you think about today,” Mennon asked Selen.

“Everything was great. I would like to visit all the cities once more,” said Selen.

“It’s great that we decided to stop here first, and not drive straight to France,” said Artborg.

“Queen Abellin knew that we’ll find ourselves in an unknown place, so she had sent two guides to help us,” said Hezzord.

“Without you, it would be very difficult to deal with this situation,” said Kate.

“We had almost left Holland and soon find ourselves in Belgium. I really like everything here. I’ve changed my opinion about these regions,” added Kelly.

“Well, Belgium and Holland are very similar to the United Kingdom. I feel like at home here,” said Griff.

“Belgium and the Netherlands have absorbed the best things from the neighbouring countries. It became independent regions,” said Miel.

“I’m also delighted with the way we’ve spent our day. I wait for the next day,” said Mennon.

“Today it was a success. I believe that tomorrow would be good too,” said Selen.

They could see Belgium in the distance. They couldn’t believe that very soon they’ll be there. France will be next, and finally the United Kingdom. There they will get the *magic wand*, which will help them win the war with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*.

CHAPTER NINE

KHABAROVSK

Meanwhile, Queen Abellin and her entire entourage, drove their cars to Khabarovsk, a city in which there was a castle of the *East Inquisition*. They wanted to talk about the current political situation.

Zondon is ready to negotiate. We want to avoid innocent casualties. As soon as the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* have invited us here, we immediately came,” said Queen Abellin, who was in a limo with Tuibe, driver Tishelle and butler Michel.

“And if we can’t find any solutions this time, next time we will find them for sure,” said Tuibe.

“I think that everything is OK. We’ve achieved a lot today. After all, not all our meetings with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* had a bad end,” said Queen Abellin.

“They had to respond to this invitation. It would absolve them of this burden,” explained Tuibe.

“It has been decided to hold the current Congress in Khabarovsk to the other side of the country. The *East Inquisition* is one of the most neutral. And they don’t care at all if they are the only ones who didn’t touch anybody else, and who don’t steal the lands of others. They are willing to put up with everything,” said Queen Abellin.

“If this Congress decided to move somewhere else, then I would probably have kept away from this visit. It’s too risky in this situation,” said Tuibe.

“I simply must travel throughout the world, from time to time, because I’m the Queen of Zondon,” said Queen Abellin.

“If the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* doesn’t make concessions, the war will certainly continue,” said Tuibe.

“We have already managed to accomplish so much. But we are not yet ready to pronounce our position,” said Queen Abellin.

“For too long we have tolerated too much. We won’t simply come here and give up everything so easily,” added Tuibe.

Within half an hour, the guests from *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* were behind the walls of the castle of the *East Inquisition*.

“We are getting there,” said Tolstoy.

”Welcome to the Castle of the *East Inquisition*.

“We were invited here to be your guides. Follow us and we’ll show you the castle,” said a slender man.

“We are instructed from the top echelon, to accompany you wherever you go. But we can’t listen to our leadership in this situation. So we are no longer protecting you,” explained the general, while he watched the disgruntled leaders of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*.

A delegation from *Zondon* entered the castle following Tolstoy, the skinny man and the other inquisitor. They climbed up to the second floor, on a huge stairway. They turned right and went into the next room, where they have already met the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition*, the *Order of Water* and the *Order of the Air*.

“We are glad to see you here inside the walls of the *East Inquisition*. I suggest not to waste anymore time. Let’s start our dialogue straight away at the round table talks in the next room,” said father Glurt, the leader of the Order.

“It’s a good idea. It’s long since we’ve met last time. We should do our best, and save the lives of innocent people. I do support this idea,” said Queen Abellin.

Immediately after the Queen said these words, all of the leaders quietly entered into the next room. Everyone took a seat at the round table. They began

negotiations on the future of the *Order of Fire* and the *Order of the Earth*, which were defeated recently, and of course the cessation of hostilities.

“The first thing we want to discuss, is the possibility of ending the war between our people,” reminded them father Trey, who was the leader of the West Inquisition. He then started talking about a cessation of hostilities. This topic was his pet subject.

“What do we get from you, if we stop fighting you, when the odds are almost on our side,” asked Queen Abellin.

“We are ready to make concessions for the sake of ending this war,” said Azhar, who was the leader of *South Inquisition*.

“You must be willing to make serious concessions. Otherwise the war will not end,” said Tuibe.

“We are ready to discuss the question of extending the boundaries of Zondon right now. We allow you to keep your troops in the castles of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth*. Finally we decide how we could reconcile with you,” said father Glurt, the leader of the *East Inquisition*.

“Of course the proposal is tempting. But it isn’t enough to stop the war. At the moment the split between us is huge. We sincerely hope you still have suggestions for us,” said Nobb, the first deputy of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

“What do you mean it isn’t enough,” expressed his displeasure father Flurt, the leader of the *Northern Inquisition*.

“What you offer is too cheap a price for ending this war. We fear that it will continue,” said Nokkuf.

“Well, we are ready to listen to your suggestions,” said Water.

“Our side will be ready to stop the war, with the condition that you guarantee to our side, the participation in the control of all your lands, and the transfer of power from the *West Inquisition* to the opposition forces,” said father Ignatius.

“You know that this will never happen. Otherwise our party would completely lose its power,” said Air with a calm voice.

“If you don’t agree to accept these concessions, the war will continue,” said Sergius.

“All leaders of the *West Inquisition* are against it. To meet the terms of your request, is simply not possible at this negotiating table,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“Why do we even bother to meet today, if the *West Inquisition* is not willing to hand over power to the opposition forces?” asked Gorr.

“We would have to find alternative ways out of this situation. We have to put an end to this war. We are always ready to cooperate,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“You have such a high opinion of the *West Inquisition*. It’s not the most peaceful order. There is a revolution brewing. You might just lose this order without any reason,” said butler Michelle, also decided to take part in today's talks.

“All this is nonsense. We would crush any rebellion. This is not the first time,” grinned the *inquisitor with the average waist*.

“Well, we put this question to you differently. Do you agree to offer to the people from the opposition forces important jobs at *Zonon Inquisition*?” asked driver

Tishel.

“If we get paid for this, yes. There is no question about this. It was always the case and it will be in the future. Our order needs to become stronger. Besides you're a decent opposition. We would like to have a common cause with you,” grinned Trey.

“That was from the very beginning. But we have other problems right now,” said Queen Abellin.

“Why not? We are gathered here to agree on every point,” said Azar.

“And because of this, you have invited us to the castle of the *East Inquisition*,” said Tuibe.

“Once we found out that you are here for an extraordinary meeting, we came to discuss something with you,” said father Glurt.

“Then, we demand to declare father Tabor, the leader of the opposition movement in the *West Inquisition*. Also he should be the governor of the castle. In this case, Father Trey will remain at his post. He will continue to manage the entire *Inquisition*,” said Nobb.

“Well, we have to turn you down. We can't transfer into your hands the control of the castle of the West Inquisition. It threatens the loss of all orders. We are going to reject it, even if it's your suggestion,” said Flurt.

“But why do we want to make sure that everyone will continue to work in the castle of the *West Inquisition*? Surely you can't cope with Tabor. He's just become governor of a single city, not the ruler of all the lands of the Order. We need to think carefully about it and come to a conclusion. In principle this is possible,” said Nokkuf.

“If it was only for Tabor, then we could've handled him. But he is not alone. We are not going to change centuries-old laws. It means that father Trey left a second-in-command in his castle to rule all lands of *West Inquisition*,” said Water.

“Are you sure? I think it's a good deal. I think we should all be happy,” said Ignatius.

“In principle, I think that we can agree on this issue with the three priests. This will put an end to the war. After all, we are all interested,” said Air.

“And yet, you forgot to say, that father Tabor will need a deputy. We wish that his deputy will be a man from Zondon,” added Sergius.

“If only father Trey agrees. I think the two people we pull in different directions,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“At the beginning of our meeting there was something you talked about. It was the intention to expand the boundaries of *Zondon* and of *Zondon Inquisition*. We want to hear about it in detail,” said Gorr.

“Exactly. When you stop fighting, the boundaries of your order will extend to the south and east by twenty percent,” said father Glurt.

“I think we are all happy about this outcome. If we claim more land, we won't agree,” said Michelle.

“That's good. But we still have so much to discuss. We can't sit long in one place,” said Plain.

“Now that we’ve finished what we had to say, we must agree on few important issues,” said Tishel.

In other words, all of them agreed to appoint father Tabor to the *West Inquisition*. They also expanded *Zondon* to the South and to the East. Then they’ve started to discuss questions regarding the fate of the *Order of Fire* and the *Order of Water*.

“We don’t want to get back the castles of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth*,” said Queen Abellin.

“But it seems that you keep them,” said father Trey through his teeth.

“That’s good news,” said Tuibe, who tapped father Trey on his shoulder. Trey was pale with anger.

“If you don’t want the land south of the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, why do you mention that? Both castles and all adjacent lands of the *Order of Fire* and the north lands of the *Order of the Earth*, are shifting under your influence,” said Azar.

“These are great news. I like this proposal very much. The new lands will expand the boundaries of our holdings,” said Nokkuf, who was cheerful.

“Are you ready to sign all those papers right now?” asked father Glurt.

“It’s a tempting offer. We agree to sign all the papers right now,” said father Nobb. He made concessions without requiring the southlands of the *Order of the Earth*. But the deal never took place. *Zondon* had not received official recognition for these regions.

“Why did you so easily agree for the division of the *Order of the Earth*? Your party has always supported any other organization,” said Flurt.

“The northern part of the *Order of the Earth* and the main castle of the *order*, come under our influence. We will do everything for the people who live in these lands. They deserve a new and better life. We are going to support these lands,” said Ignatius.

“You have the right virtue, as always. Everyone is trying to help,” laughed Air.

“If I were in your place I would not laugh. If we laugh, soon we’ll reach a stalemate,” said Sergius.

“You know, I personally doubt that you will be able to capture the castle of the *Order of Air*. It’s located in the vicinity of the *East Inquisition* castle, or that you would take my castle of the *Order of Water*. It’s closely adjoining the castle *South Inquisition*. If your attack either one of these places, help for us to come without delay. You have to challenge not only the *Order of Elements*, but also *Order of the Inquisition*,” said Water.

”Well, if today we don’t agree, we’ll see if we can get these places,” promised Gorr.

“We could argue about this forever. But we should finally sign the documents on the fate of the far places of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth*. It will be much better,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“Show us the documents. We are ready to sign it right now,” said Michelle.

“And here they are,” said the *big inquisitor*. And he bent under the table, and he got out all the necessary documents. He placed these documents on the table.

“We understand that the division of the *Order of the Earth* will create a new *South*. But we are ready to sign all these documents,” said Tishel.

He passed to the leaders of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* all the necessary papers and pens for signing the normal contract.

Finally, the leaders of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* managed to negotiate with the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition*, the *Order of Water* and *Order of the air* not only in words. They’ve also signed the legal documents. It was a very big step towards their further cooperation.

After that, all parties began to discuss the issue with respect to the *magic gates*, which were forcibly seized by the troops of the *Order of the Inquisition* and now defunct *Order of the Elements*.

“Are you willing to place the *magic gates*, back under the control of *Zondon*, *Zondon Inquisition* and of the *European Joint Magic Army*?” asked Queen Abellin.

“Of course not. We have seized these gates, so we can put them on display so the people can appreciate the arts,” said Trey.

“Why didn’t explain it before? We might’ve been able to agree,” said Tuibe.

“Don’t forget that we are people who live in this country too. We want to be involved in the control of the magic gates,” said Azar, who put forward his demands.

“I am afraid that this problem can’t be solved without the participation of observers from the *Joint European Magic Army*,” sighed Nokkuf.

“Why do you have to bring the *Joint European Magic Army* into this? These gates are now under our control,” said Glurt, who hit with his fist on the table.

“Well, we’ve done everything possible that *Order of the Inquisition*, *Order of the Air* and *the Order of Water* could be involved in controlling magic gates on the same footing with everyone else. *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* have enough votes that would achieve this. We think that no one would object on this occasion against the *European Magic Union*,” said Nobb.

“You are always appreciated. If *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* demand it, you won’t refuse,” added Flurt.

“Well, you can assume that we have already agreed. You are allowed access to the magic gates. We will be all involved in the control of these gates. I think that this would be a win-win situation,” Ignatius told them the good news.

“If you are trying to recreate the old union. All parties must participate in conflict resolution,” said Air.

“We’ve just been informed that in the near future, everyone will have access to the magic gates,” said Serge.

“That’s good. But the union does not include all of us,” said Water.

“Have no doubt. We are all friends. We work just in one area at the moment. It shouldn’t be any problems for you to join our alliance with your party,” said Gorr.

“We don’t demand too much. We only need one representative from each order.

We also need five percent of the troops of each order. Yes, we also need more representatives from the *Order of the Earth*. You can have your choice. It’s not up to me,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“So, you need six representatives from the army, and thirty percent of the total troops. I think we are satisfied with these figures,” said Michelle.

“That's good. You are honest. We haven't doubted you for one moment,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“I think we can agree on the percentage of votes, without any problems,” admitted Tishel.

“Our side gets six representatives, and thirty per cent of the army. Your party gets the same six members, and thirty per cent of the army, plus a unit of the European Union Magic Army. We will have seven representatives, and forty percent of the total army. I think that all of you are happy with this proposal,” said the *inquisitor with the average waist*.

Having discussed the issues concerning the control over the magic gates, the four sides started talking about plans for the future.

“Well today we agreed on everything,” said Queen Abellin of Zondon.

“In the future, we remain ready to develop relations between Zondon and *Zondon Inquisition*,” promised Trey.

“We have many things to discuss. We have very little time,” said Tuibe.

“It's very important to resolve the conflicts between our people. I propose to continue our discussions,” said Azar.

“In principle we don't mind this. We are willing to continue cooperating with you,” said Nobb.

“Our party strongly demands the cessation of hostilities,” added Flurt.

“All of us are here today. We will resolve this issue. But so far, we didn't get from you any convincing proposals,” said father Nokkuf the leader of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

“The *Order of the Inquisition*, the *Order of the Air* and *Order of the Earth* didn't want war. We want to live peacefully in this world,” said Flurt.

“Yes, we also want to live peacefully. War only weakens our country,” said Ignatius.

“I call to withdraw all your troops from the places where they shouldn't be,” proposed Air.

“No problem. It isn't hard to move out our troops. But we have land that we must protect,” said Serge.

“It's desirable to do it quickly. We are already tired of the presence of your troops near the windows of the headquarters of our order,” complained Water.

“No problem, all depends on you. As soon as all necessary documents are signed, our troops will go back to their bases,” promised Gorr.

“In early autumn, we solved the conflict with respect to Zondon's inquisitors and inquisitors from the *Order of the Inquisition*, living side by side with each other. So now, finally, we ended the conflict. We've managed to solve it through joint efforts. The feud stopped,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“So, it wasn't for nothing that we met last time in the castle of the *North Inquisition*. We also think that today's meeting is not for nothing,” said Michelle.

“Once control is introduced in those lands, all the problems are solved,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“To solve this problem, *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* had sent there the best people. We are pleased that this issue was finally settled,” explained Tishel.

“In this particular area, we’ve also sent the best observers. Now these lands experience economic growth, and we think that the people living there have a future,” said the *inquisitor with the average waist*.

“You see, not all is as bad as it seems at first glance,” said Queen Abellin.

“Yes, but this conflict has left behind too many graves and crosses. We must solve it,” said Trey.

“Everybody knows that our two nations are involved in a terrible feud. If it does not stop, in the end everything will collapse,” said Tuibe.

“It’s true. We have to do something, if we want to ensure a decent future,” said Azar.

“We also want this. But until now you didn’t want to cooperate with us on this issue,” said Nobb.

“Just because we were busy with other things, this is not a reason for us to break our friendship,” said Glurt.

“If we fail to solve all these problems in the coming days, I know that this is all over,” said Nokkuf.

“We have gone too far. If we don’t stop fighting, the apocalypse is around the corner,” said Flurt.

“You don’t have to tell us. We all understand this very well,” said Ignatius.

“So when all documents are complete, all parties have to sign and stop the war,” said Air, who was delighted.

“If we agree on all the major points, then the war must end,” said Serge.

“We will do everything possible that is required from us. That’s why we invited you here in the castle of the *East Inquisition*,” said Water.

“We all hope that we can now agree,” admitted Gorr.

“For today, we discussed many issues. Finally we’ve come to a unanimous conclusion. After this meeting is completed, we will have some more free consultations with you. And tomorrow we’ll sign all the necessary papers,” said the *big inquisitor*. He thanked the leaders of the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* for their peace efforts.

“For today we have signed the documents on the future of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of Water*. This is a lot,” said Michelle.

“All that is left is to sign the documents concerning the *war* and the *magic gates*,” said Lean.

“Let’s take a break. We have nothing more to discuss. Our talks came to a standstill yet again,” said Tishel.

“Good idea. And yet, all the remaining documents will be ready only by tomorrow morning.

You have to spend this night in the castle of the *East Inquisition*,” said Plain.

In the evening of the same day, Queen Abellin and Tuibe strolled through the castle of the *East Inquisition*, in search of exploration for the local attractions. "I couldn't even imagine that this castle is so huge. And they open it up for all to see. That proves it's great," said Queen Abellin.

"It's as great as their own honour. After all, they love to prove to everyone that all they have is great," explained Tuibe.

"And why not. Their inquisition is the largest in the world. It stretches from the Urals to Chukotka Peninsula, and from the North Pole to China. And they want control over all these lands," said Queen Abellin.

"I think that if one includes the tunnels as well, this is bigger than the castle of the North Inquisition," admitted Tuibe.

"It is. Therefore, in contrast to the castle of the *North Inquisition*, one may go down the hall of this castle, and he or she won't see one single *masterpiece* on display.

"Every inquisition tries to prove that it is better than other inquisition. But some of them still differ from one another," said Queen Abellin.

"Why don't we walk through the castle of the *East Inquisition*? We have plenty of time. Today we've been so busy with that meeting. I'm glad we were able to sign important documents regarding the *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Elements*," said Tuibe.

"I am happy about today. I sincerely hope that tomorrow will be as good," said Queen Abellin.

"If tomorrow we will be able to sign documents on the *West Inquisition* and the *magic gates*, the war must end," said Tuibe.

"Do you really think that tomorrow we will be able to sign all the necessary documents?" asked Queen Abellin.

"At least everyone is interested in this. I think that the answer is yes," said Tuibe.

"It's interesting. But that's not all. If father Trey refuses to appoint Tabor, for the post of Governor-General in the *West Inquisition*, the war will continue. No one will be able to argue with that," said Queen Abellin.

"Come on, they haven't changed at all. Everyone knows that the inquisitions crave for war," said Tuibe.

"Well, tomorrow we'll see. At least if Trey refuses to sign these papers, I'm not going to stop the war before it starts," said Queen Abellin.

"If we all act in this way, tomorrow no one will agree, and then the war will go on," said Tuibe.

"So our future will depend only on the decision of father Trey? I bet he likes to influence everything. He is such an important figure in the *wizard world*," sighed Queen Abellin.

"Our party already has four votes out of ten. That means something," explained Tuibe.

“You need to relax. I think that by tomorrow everything will be better,” said Queen Abellin.

Leaving the meeting rooms, Abellin and Tuibe walked through a beautiful garden of the *East Inquisition*. It was situated next to the castle.

“I marvel at everything here in the *East Inquisition*’s castle,” said Queen Abellin.

“No one else in the whole world has the things they have here at this Inquisition.

So they still have the upper hand,” said Tuibe, while looking around.

“When the world crumbles everywhere else, they flourish here. But they need peace,” said Queen Abellin, who came closer to the main flowerbeds.

“And they will try to make possible everything that might save them. They even try to persuade father Trey,” said Tuibe. And she carefully inspected the trees growing around the garden.

“It always happens. Some leave everything to fall apart. Others thrive at it,” said Queen Abellin.

“Despite the fact that their new policies might hurt their people, they are willing to cooperate,” said Tuibe.

“They decided to invite us here at the *East Inquisition*. I think everything will be fine,” said Queen Abellin.

“The *East Inquisition* has a good reputation. We should be glad if we succeed to strike a deal with them,” said Tuibe.

“Frankly, I didn’t expect that they will invite us here for a special meeting. As soon as I got the invitation, I accepted it,” admitted Queen Abellin.

“The *Order of the Inquisition* has no other opinion. They just hope that the other inquisitions will sign the peace treaty,” said Tuibe.

“One time we were friends with the *North Inquisition*. But then things have changed. We became bitter enemies,” said Queen Abellin. She remembered the good old days, when she had just become the Queen of Zondon.

“Right after the second war with the dead, Zondon signed a friendship treaty with the *Order of the Elements*. But one day they betrayed Zondon. They joined in an alliance with the *Order of the Inquisition*. And now they are using force again, to get out of this union,” said Tuibe.

“The *Order of Elements* are also divided. Look at this garden. It has a maze of bushes. Can you see it?” said Queen Abellin.

“Yes I can see it. One could get lost in this maze at night. One could wander for hours searching for an exit. I love a green open field, and clear sky over my head,” said Tuibe.

“I’ll tell you about the leaders of the other Inquisitions. There is such a mess at all levels of government,” said Queen Abellin.

“Zondon has five Inquisitions. It also has five *Order of the Elements*. They live on these lands with a small number of magic people. Take for example the *Black and White Unicorns*, and *Pegasus Horses*, or the *Horses with Wings and Horns*, or the *White and Coloured Spiders*, or the *Hermits and Necromants*. These are the citizens of this country, who refused to participate in the conflict between *Zondon*

and *Zondon Inquisition*, or in the confrontation between the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*,” said Tuibe.

“There is a whole world around us. We failed again to make new friends. The war hasn’t ended. I’m just the Queen of the largest Orders,” explained Queen Abellin. “Perhaps one day, we all will be together once again. And then everything will change,” said Tuibe.

“I’m already in power for two decades, but I still can’t get everyone to agree,” said Queen Abellin.

“We are about to reach a conclusion with these talks. I think that very soon we will reap the rewards from our efforts,” said Tuibe.

Queen Abellin and Tuibe went back into the castle. They continued to roam the corridors of the *East Inquisition* until they stumbled upon a secret entrance to the castle. The Queen and her companion couldn’t abstain, and they sneaked in through the secret entry.

“It’s so dark in here,” said Queen Abellin, while she activated the night vision goggles with the help of magic.

“I wonder where does this tunnel go?” asked Tuibe, while following the example of the Queen.

“Don’t rush things. You’ll soon see for yourself,” answered Queen Abellin.

“I feel that there is no end in sight to this tunnel. Everything is enchanted here,” said Tuibe.

“Someday, this tunnel must be completed. I bet that we will find out the truth about the secret rooms,” said Queen Abellin.

“Please, speak softly. We are not yet caught. Everything here is under surveillance. The inquisitors are so nosy, that they look where they are not supposed to look,” said Tuibe.

“Don’t worry. I’m still one of the most powerful wizards in the whole world. Only Dmitry is stronger than me. And he is on our side. But, this is not why I search,” said Queen Abellin.

“Then, yell as strong as you could. You need to be on the alert in any unfamiliar tunnel. No one of us knows where this could lead us to,” said Tuibe.

“We can’t walk next to each other without bickering. But we need to go further into this tunnel,” said Queen Abellin.

“I feel with my whole heart, that today we have bumped into the most interesting thing,” said Tuibe.

“And I have a feeling, that we could walk around the castle of the *East Inquisition* ten times, and we still won’t find anything. Don’t you think that we go around in circles?” asked Queen Abellin.

“We need to look carefully to the walls. In this way we could make sure that we are not getting back to the same place,” suggested Tuibe.

“We don’t go to the same place. It’s just that the tunnel is gradually lowering, and we don’t know where it will take us,” said Queen Abellin.

“What if it’s a trap? We might have to get out of here, or call for some help,” said Tuibe.

“This is only a deception. The inquisitors try to impress everybody with their installations. This tunnel is just a trick. I don’t think it takes us anywhere,” said Queen Abellin.

“I wonder how do you think that will react to the leaders of the *East Inquisition*, if they find out that we went into their tunnels,” said Tuibe.

“You are so naïve. They have been aware all along. They know we are here. They are carefully watching our every move. The whole question is whether they will tell the leaders of other orders about this,” smiled Queen Abellin.

“I think they won’t tell anyone. You’re the Queen of Zondon. I’m your second-in-command. So they will keep their mouth shut,” explained Tuibe.

“Most likely, someone had opened the door intentionally. They saw us coming. They turned off all the burglar alarms,” said Queen Abellin.

“I also think that it was a set up, just for us. When we walked past this room for the first time, I do remember that the door was closed,” said Tuibe.

“Most likely this is the case. I think that we’ll know it by tomorrow,” said Queen Abellin.

“It seems to me that the *East Inquisition*’s castle is bigger underneath. Look, here is an entire world, which is obviously out of sight,” said Tuibe.

“You’re right. The East Inquisition has many lower ground bunkers, under lock and key. But we are more likely to not get to them in time, because these tunnels are very well protected,” said Queen Abellin.

“How do you know? We could be on the same bypass tunnel, going in circles,” said Tuibe.

“Everything can be as you say it is. It will be good if all this proves to be true,” smiled Queen Abellin.

“Yesterday morning, leaders of the *East Inquisition* for the first time let us get in here. We came with our cars. We didn’t fly here on airplanes,” said Tuibe.

“It’s a sign that they are willing to cooperate. If tomorrow everyone will sign the necessary documents, we will be able to travel inside here without restrictions,” said Queen Abellin.

“I’m glad this day finally came. We are all are tired of lies,” said Tuibe.

“At least I can literally see light at the end of the tunnel. Look ahead, and you’ll see that we are almost there,” said Queen Abellin.

Queen Abellin and Tuibe have finally seen a way out of the tunnel, after half an hour walk in the darkness.

Queen Abellin and Tuibe arrived in a huge storage area, where gold bars were piled up on racks. It was the gold, which belonged to the *East Inquisition*. The Queen and Tuibe didn’t quite understand how they got here. Where were the guards? Why the electronic and the magic systems weren’t working?

“It turns out that the *East Inquisition* has more gold than I expected,” admitted Queen Abellin.

“Here is where the leaders of the Order keep the gold. I never thought that one day I will see this room with my own eyes,” said Tuibe.

“There is not only one room. There are lots of rooms here. For example, there in the adjoining room, they keep their gold bars. Look how much gold there is,” said Queen Abellin.

“Since you're the Queen, and I'm your first assistant, we could touch the gold if we wanted,” said Tuibe. She carefully inspected one of the gold bars close to his feet.

“I'm sorry, that we can't seize all this gold for Zondon. We can't even take a couple of gold bars or some jewellery. It would allow us to maintain our status. Don't worry. We have our own gold bars,” said Queen Abellin.

“Although the *East Inquisition* has mined its gold, they have more gold than other inquisitions,” said Tuibe.

“With that kind of money, they can solve any conflict. They could even persuade father Trey,” said Queen Abellin.

“However, if this war continues, we will win over the East Inquisition. All the gold will be ours,” said Tuibe.

“We have already managed to take the castles of the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth* and now all their gold belongs to us. Because now we're entering into a single Union, all our gold will be pooled together,” said Queen Abellin.

“If everything goes right, we will have something else to win. If tomorrow our party will not sign the papers, the war will go on,” said Tuibe.

“Gold is always good, and platinum is even better. Look! I think, I found a platinum storage-room,” shouted Queen Abellin.

“And next to it is a well lit room. Let's go there,” said Tuibe.

“I love diamonds. Let's stay a bit longer,” said Queen Abellin.

“Here's even better than in a museum. Here we can touch everything with our hands,” said Tuibe.

“There's no comparison. It's a hundred times better than a museum. No one is allowed in here,” said Queen Abellin.

“Only a person who has integrity has the right to enter this room,” said Tuibe.

“How many times have we been here before? Until this moment, we were never invited here. We didn't even know these riches existed,” said Queen Abellin.

“Well, at least we find out now. They could've shown it to us long ago. We would've known this Order's power,” said Tuibe.

“We must not waste out time here. We don't want to make uncomfortable the leaders of this order,” said Queen Abellin after they walked past the storage room with silver.

“I totally agree with you. We've been here for a while, and should not stay a minute longer,” said Tuibe.

Queen Abellin and Tuibe left the place, and they've returned to their rooms. Then they've gathered all their staff in the main room began to tell them what they found in the tunnels of the castle *East Inquisition*.

“At the beginning, we just walked around their castle. Then we've decided to go into their garden,” said Queen Abellin.

“After about one hour, we've decided to go back into the castle through the same entrance. But this time we found a large steel door opened. It led down. We've

decided to find out where does this tunnel go. Before that, the door was closed all the time,” said Tuibe.

“As I now remember, we went for a long time into the tunnel. We eventually stumbled upon the hidden gold of the *East Inquisition*. There is stored not only gold, but also other precious metals. At the same time we’ve passed the guards, as well as all electronic and magic security systems. We think that everything was switched off deliberately,” said Queen Abellin.

“I never thought that the East Inquisition could have as much gold. Their treasure is as big as Zondon’s treasure. They are filthy rich,” said Tuibe.

“We were amazed when we saw all this wealth here inside the castle of the *East Inquisition*. No wonder they need peace,” said Queen Abellin.

“They have so much money, that it’s hard to compete with them. And they are not alone. Other orders also have money,” said Tuibe.

“We can win the *Order of the Inquisition*, only if a miracle happens. Victory over the *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Earth* does not mean anything. We can still change our plans,” said Queen Abellin.

“Do we have a plan? What will we do, if tomorrow we won’t be able to agree?” said Tuibe.

“We must challenge next the *Order of Water* and *Order of the Air*, but as a consequence we have to declare war on the *Order of the Inquisition*,” said Queen Abellin.

“Because the *South and East Inquisitions* are not able to look evenly at what they have in front of their noses, we must be come to their aid,” said Tuibe.

“You play with fire,” said father Nokkuf.

“You didn’t have to go into the tunnel before signing important documents. They’ve provoked you on purpose,” said Nobb.

“We could not just let go. If our opponents are willing to cooperate, they won’t mention this incident. If they do make it into a scandal, then we came here for nothing,” said Queen Abellin.

“You keep saying it’s OK. But the *Order of the Inquisition* likes to harass others,” said Ignatius.

“What do you mean? If they are willing to stop the war, then there is nothing to harass them for. If they don’t stop the fight, we won’t stop it either,” said Tuibe.

“Tomorrow morning, we will know what they want,” said Sergius.

“Maybe they’ve invited us here, just to get more time,” said Gorr.

* * *

The next morning, all the leaders gathered again in the meeting room. They had to sign all the necessary documents. But so far, there was no consensus on all issues. Nor had they even discussed all the agreed actions.

“What did you do last night in the castle of the East Inquisition?” asked father Trey.

“Oh, nothing special. First we decided to stroll through your palace. Then we went to visit your garden,” said Queen Abellin in a quiet voice.

“What happened after that? Are you trying to keep us in the dark? Do you seriously think that we know absolutely nothing?” said Azar.

“After we’ve left your garden, we came back into your castle through the same entrance. But we discovered that one door, which was first closed, this time it was opened. It led down to your treasures. We couldn’t resist to such a temptation. We walked down the tunnel, where eventually we stumbled upon your gold. Now we know how much money you have,” said Queen Abellin.

“If Queen Abellin of Zondon, and I her second-in-command are on a visit anywhere, we want to find out what is going on,” said Tuibe.

“Do you even know that is not good to arrive on the scene in such hidden places, without an invitation?” said Glurt.

“We didn’t need any invitation. The door was open. We decided to go inside on the spur of the moment. There was no lock on the door. It was open. How do we know that you haven’t left the door open on purpose, to tempt us to go in?” said Queen Abellin.

“Well, you know that you can’t just go snooping in someone’s house and touch everything,” Flurt said to Tuibe.

“For the first time in our lives, we saw these treasures, and we couldn’t stop touching them. But we didn’t take anything. What’s the big deal? Let’s continue to discuss issues regarding the cessation of hostilities. These would stop the war between our people forever,” offered Tuibe.

“How can we talk to you, when you behave so arrogantly,” said Fire.

“If we don’t get down to business, then we go back home. We don’t listen to all your comments because we like them,” said Nobb.

“I personally wish that we continue our talks,” explained Water. She knew very well that if they wouldn’t agree, her award would be next on queue.

“We came here only because we intend to cooperate with you. We want to see reciprocal steps on your part,” Nokkuf reminded them.

“That’s good. Then continue to discuss the expansion of the frontiers of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*,” suggested the *big inquisitor*.

“We are not against this,” agreed Ignatius, “the main thing is to have it passed.”

“After consulting without you last night, we’ve agreed and decided to pass under your control for an indefinite time, the whole of the southern and eastern part of Moscow region. Let it be our gift to you,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“That’s good. Now let’s pass a resolution on the other matters,” said Sergius.

“Now, to arrive at a resolution, we still have lots of things to discuss,” said the *inquisitor in uniform*.

“So what are we waiting for? Zondon is always ready to cooperate,” said Gorr.

“Due to the fact that *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* get a lot of new lands, you will need to pledge a complete withdrawal of your forces from all the places outside your land. Otherwise the agreement won’t be signed,” said father Trey.

“We now have something to safeguard. We agree to withdraw all our troops from your lands, if it would put an end to hostilities,” promised Queen Abellin.

“We think that all of these lands will be enough for Zondon. It would put an end to this war once and for all,” said Azar.

“With regard to land, all of us are quite satisfied,” said Tuibe.

“This is the most important thing. Otherwise all our talks wouldn’t have any sense,” explained Glurt.

“Since you are so generous towards us, what do you want in return?” said Nobb.

“Of course, we’ll get to that while we continue our talks,” said Flurt.

“We promise we’ll be as generous towards you, like you are with us,” said Nokkuf.

“It’s good. The relations between our nations are the most important,” said Air.

“We are sure that in case we finish with this war, we will withdraw our troops from your lands. We’ll bring our troops back home,” promised Ignatius.

“After we discuss all the matters, and we reach a compromise, we’ll sign all the documents,” confirmed Water.

“It’s so nice that finally the day came, when *Zondon* and the *Order of the Inquisition* are seated at the same negotiating table,” said Sergius.

“We require that you accept us as a third party which controls the magic gates,” said the *big inquisitor*. He put forward the requirements to dissolve the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*.

“Since your side is going to make concessions, *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* simply can’t refuse you in solving this issue,” said Gorr.

“We need to continue to have six representatives from our side, and thirty percent of the total army,” said Lean.

“This idea is plagued by troubles. We won’t try to find ways to help all your requests,” promised Michelle.

“We want it badly and we hope you understand it. No other contracts or documents will be signed without it. We are talking about free movement. It concerns us all,” said a *nasty inquisitor*.

“Can you believe that we have already agreed? What else do you want to speak to us about,” said Tishel.

“It remains only to discuss the appointment of father Trey for the post of governor of Tabora in the castle of the *West Inquisition*. And also to sign all necessary documents,” said Father Trey who referred to himself as a third person.

“And what do you think about it?” said Queen Abellin.

“We had a lot of discussions about it. We decided that this won’t happen,” said Azar.

“Then it doesn’t seem that the war won’t continue,” said Tuibe.

“Let it be on your conscience. We have already done so much for you. It seems that to you isn’t much difference if we continue the war or not,” explained Glurt.

“I don’t understand what is going on. When our side wants to acquire new lands, your side wants our troops withdrawn from these lands. You also want to share in the control of magic lands. What if we don’t agree on the settlements issues? Everything freezes up. Was it all for nothing?” asked Nobb.

“We all want to participate in the control of the magic gates. There is only one vote against the appointment of father Trey for the post of Governor-General in the *West Inquisition*. And, what kind of cooperation can we talk about anyway? We all want to live in this Commonwealth, without fear of being displaced. But you keep your borders closed,” said Water.

“And what do you suggest in this case?” asked the leader of the *Zondon Inquisition* father Nokkuf.

“I don’t know. You decide. The fate of the Commonwealth will depend on your decision,” said Air.

“Let us then simply sign the documents regarding the expansion of the boundaries of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*, the withdrawal of our troops from your lands. We also agree to joint control over the magic gates. But the war should go on. This concludes our conference,” suggested Ignatius.

“What sort of idea is this? We’re going to make concessions to you. You want us to make concessions. Yet the war continues. All because of your stubbornness,” said father Trey, who looked suspiciously at the others.

“It’s so nice that at least we were able to agree,” said Sergius.

“Father Trey doesn’t want to even talk on this topic, despite the fact that we’ve tried to convince him the entire evening,” confessed the *big inquisitor*.

“Where are the documents that we have signed today?” said Gorr.

“Here they are. We went through all sorts of troubles to sign them,” said the *skinny inquisitor*. He placed the signed documents on the table.

“Well, we have agreed on all these issues,” said Michelle.

“It seems so,” said the *nasty inquisitor*.

“So, let’s go home,” said Tishel, who began to read carefully what was written in the documents.

* * *

Despite the fact that the day before and the next day, the parties were able to discuss many issues and sign important documents, the war continued anyway, due to the fact that only one representative, namely father Trey, has refused. He didn’t sign because he was refused the job he asked for. He wanted to become the Governor-General of the *West Inquisition*. The meeting was over. All the papers were signed. In the evening of the same day, the leaders of the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* had decided to leave the castle of the *East Inquisition*. At the end, all the inquisitors who lived in this castle, came into the streets, sat on balconies, and weaved to the passing leaders. It was an old practice to behave spontaneously when visiting leaders left.

The leaders were ordered to leave the castle within twenty-four hours. So they’ve decided to leave as quickly as they could. In the meantime, they’ve sat in their armoured cars, under the watchful eye of the inquisitors.

“We wish you all the best,” said father Trey, who was the chief culprit of all evils.

“Today you are very polite,” said Queen Abellin, and she walked away from the leader of the *West Inquisition*.

“Thank you for these two days we’ve spent at your place,” said Queen Abellin, who thanked Azar for his hospitality.

“We too want to thank you for your hospitality,” said Tuibe coldly.

“What? Are you still sad? I believe that in these two days, the relationship between our two people has gone further,” said Glurt.

“I agree with you. You tried to do everything possible,” said Nokkuf the leader of the *Zondon Inquisition*.

“We believe a hundred percent, that at our next meeting, will end this war between our people. We will also get rid of the *West Inquisition*,” said Flurt.

“I want to thank especially you Flurt, for organizing this meeting within the walls of this beautiful castle,” said Nobb.

“We have tried to do everything that would end this war, but alas,” sighed Air.

“People think that when we leave this castle, they’re going to detain someone,” said Ignatius, who was Leagun’s grandfather.

“We left, but we didn’t achieve our goal,” said Water.

He was most worried, about the fact that the parties could not agree. Everyone knew that the next in the queue would just be the *Order of Water*. And no one knew if it could withstand the might of the Order of the united armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*. But that will be another day.

“Cheer up. Everything will be okay,” said father Sergius, who was Ignatius’ assistant.

“At least I know for a fact that we still see everything,” stepped forward the big inquisitor.

“I don’t regret a thing about how it ended,” said Gorr.

“Everything that was done was for the best. We’ll meet again,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“We were all there,” said Michelle. She stepped into the car and closed the door.

“As soon as the *European Magic Union* will sign all necessary papers, we could again go and visit more countries. But so far, only few can use our gates,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“Everything will be as you said. Don’t worry about anything,” said Tishel and started the engine.

Under enthusiastic shouts from local residents, the cars with our heroes drove outside the castle of the *East Inquisition*.

“I think that yesterday and today, were two good days. We’ve managed to achieve great things,” said Queen Abellin.

“Despite the fact that the war continues, our side has been able to take control of foreign relations,” said Tuibe.

“I don’t remember when was the last time we agreed to sign so many new documents,” agreed Nobb.

“We still have a war going on. But very soon it will be over,” said Nokkuf.

“So we didn’t have to give up the Smolensk region. We will still have a home, and not be out of the Commonwealth,” said Ignatius.

“Well, that’s not the point. Our goal is to get people together,” said Sergius.

“Well you never know, just in case. We are so different from our enemies. They run away from each other. We get together,” said Gorr.

“What else to expect from the leaders of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the dissolved *Order of the Elements*? It’s better to thank them, for the way everything turned out,” said Michelle.

“Better to thank Flurt. If it wasn’t for his influence, we would still not had signed these documents,” said Tishel.

“Overall, yes you are right. It was one of the best of our meetings with them,” said Queen Abellin.

“Yeah, if you remember, that time you’ve become ill. How many times have they tried to kill or poison us right at the negotiating table?” said Tuibe.

“If you weren’t such a powerful sorceress, then you would no longer be alive. Such allies we have,” sighed Nobb.

“Remember for how long we had to extend our negotiations? And how many times we tried to kill them?” Nokkuf reminded them.

“So many times, that’s even better not to remember. It brings back bad memories,” said Ignatius.

“I wouldn’t want to have such friends. They only think about how to get rid of you,” said Sergius.

“And we’ll soon have to live with such people in the same Commonwealth,” said academician Gorr, who lowered his head.

“As we drove, we have just left the lands belonging to the castle of the *East Inquisition*. So we could breathe easily,” said Michelle.

“Finally, we will soon be home. And we have good news,” summed up Tishel.

As soon as the castle of the *East Inquisition* was finally out of sight, the leaders of the forces of light went back to Zondon.

CHAPTER TEN

VOLGOGRAD

Dmitry and Lissa were at the *Zondon*’s headquarters in Volgograd (The City on the Volga River) and continued to prepare for the upcoming assault on the castle of the *Order of Water*. There were only two hours prior to the military assault. Even at that moment, the armies if *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* have continued to prepare for the coming assault on the castle.

The day for the big fight arrived. But there was a little adverse factor involved. Close to the castle of the *Order of Water* in the neighbouring *Stavropol Region* there was the new castle of the *South Inquisition*. And they will provide full

support to their brothers. If the *Order of Water* falls, then *South Inquisition* will fall too. And this will mark a turning point in this war.

“Have you supplied our troops with all the new weapons and ammunition?”

Dmitry asked one of his generals.

“Yes, and we are currently checking these weapons. We all know that weapons must be tested in action,” stood to attention the general.

“You’re doing a good job,” said Dmitry.

“Are all your soldiers ready for the coming battle?” Lissa asked the general.

“They are ready. I know it better than the others, because they are my men. Our army is always prepared for war. We follow the old principle: If you want peace, prepare for war,” said the general who saluted.

“General, you’ve given me brilliant answers. I like how you express yourself. Where did you learn elocution?” asked Dmitry.

“This is a gift I have, Sir! I’ll go and carry out your orders, Sir,” said the general.

“Wait a little longer. There a few more things I want to discuss with you,” said Dmitry. And they walked down the street in front of the barracks.

“Sir, no matter what questions you’ll ask me, I’ll answer truthfully,” said the general.

“What else, do we need to win this battle?” asked Dmitry.

“I believe that we need more ammunition, Sir. If we can’t get more, then we’ll try to fight with what we do have. I think it will do,” said the general.

“So your answer is that you need more ammunition?” asked Lissa.

“If you have additional weapons in reserve, then please give them to us. We’ll need them soon,” explained the general.

“We have lots of anti-tank grenades. You can have them all. I think you will find that these blow up more effectively,” admitted Dmitry.

“OK. We’ll take them all. It seems to me that you only talk to us when you need us” said the general.

“It’s not true. We talk to everyone all the time. There isn’t just the army we have to talk to, you know,” said Lissa.

“Yes I know. I just want to say something. I have spent all my life guarding the *southern border*. I know the whole situation here,” said the general.

“We are aware of your victories. I know you since the *First War* and the *Second War* against the dead. And now here we are,” said Dmitry.

There was less and less time before the battle would start. Dmitry, Lissa and the Zondon Army had to leave their headquarters in Volgograd, and attack the castle of the *Order of Water*.

“I don’t have even a bit doubt about our soldiers. They are the best,” said Dmitry.

“It’s true. Nowhere in the world are soldiers better prepared for war than Zondon’s soldiers,” said Lissa.

“We have almost reached the castle of the *Order of Water*. We fly over the new lands,” said Ditta to Gamma. They flew a fighter plane in the direction of the castle.

“Look, our fighter jets are going to soften the target for us,” said Dmitry.

“We just have to take the castles of the *Order of Water* and *Order of the Air*. We’ll then go to the Order of the Inquisition,” said Lissa.

“This time, I won’t let the leaders of this order escape. Otherwise it will be my second defeat,” vowed Dmitry.

“This time we are better prepared. I think that everything will be all right,” said Lissa.

“I’m an experienced strategist. I am not afraid of the *Order of Water* and their allies from the *South Inquisition*,” confessed Dmitry.

“Dmitry and I are going to be in charge of this battle. We don’t need your advice,” Lissa told the general.

“However, your help will still be useful. We will send you to the front line. You’ll carry out our instructions. This is an order,” said Dmitry.

“Yes Sir! But before I go, you should know that I haven’t been in any combat for the last ten years, and certainly not on the first line. On the other hand if you would keep me behind the lines, I’ll be more useful to you,” said the general.

“We don’t need your help to command the army. Although if you’ve stayed behind the lines, you might be more helpful,” explained Lissa.

“If I were to die because you’ve sent me to the front line, my life would be on your conscience,” said the general.

“You won’t die. If you were to die you would’ve died long ago. You’re a skilled soldier. You’ll manage to pull through,” said Dmitry.

“You’ve fought in two wars with the dead. And you came back alive. Why should you die this time?” asked Lissa.

“Let it be as you say. But I could be more useful here,” sighed the general.

“I was elected to my position. And I was assigned to command the army. I know what I’m doing. But I’m grateful to you, for your part in the wars with the dead.” said Dmitry.

“*Attorand’ Sword* has increased our strength. *Zondon* has twice defeated the undead,” explained Lissa.

The armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* marched towards the castle of the *Order of Water* on all the roads, with the intention of surrounding it.

“*Zondon* troops are already in Volgograd. This means that all these lands, will be freed soon,” said Dmitry.

“We are going to write a new chapter in history. We shall liberate these lands,” said Lissa.

“Galita, Ditta and Gamma are flying their jets eastwards to bomb the positions of the *Order of Air* and the *East Inquisition*,” said Dmitry.

“If we can take the *Order of Water* and *South Inquisition*, then the other orders like the *Order of the Air* and *East Inquisition*, the *West Inquisition* and their friends in the North Inquisition can’t fight us alone,” said Lissa

“We have army forces that can win. We don’t intend to lose our momentum. The dictatorial regime of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* must fall. Everything should get back to normality,” said Dmitry.

“The *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Air* fell into our hands. But until recently, no one has ever thought that this would happen,” said Lissa.

“Those lands were liberated from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements*. The people there have already started a completely different life,” said Dmitry.

“While other orders continue to fade away more and more, each day, the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* are flourishing. Our main objective is to free more people from the dictatorial regime these orders. And we intend to achieve this aim,” said Lissa.

“After *Zondon* made alliance with *Zondon Inquisition*, we can guarantee that tomorrow we will have success,” said Dmitry.

“And while *Zondon* is there, people everywhere will be happy,” Lissa pointed out.

“You know, I thought that the castle of the *Order of Water* is not so far from *Zondon*’s headquarters in *Volgograd*,” admitted Dmitry.

“Are you kidding me? It’s not at the other end of the town. It’s far away from here,” Lissa corrected him.

“I know. I just thought that we could get there quicker. But on these roads, we can’t get there as soon as we would want,” said Dmitry.

“If we were just the two of us, we could get there quicker. But we have all the army marching,” said Lissa.

“It’s frightening to imagine what the leaders of the enemy order, think right now. I think they feel they lose the grip on reality right now,” said Dmitry.

“Someone had to put an end to this age-old nightmare. Their time is numbered,” said Lissa.

“We will soon see the fruit of our hard work,” said Dmitry.

“We won the battles against the other orders. We won twice against the army of the dead. Most recently we took the castles of the *Order of Fire* and the *Order of the Earth* and these victories have proved that we could win this battle too,” said Lissa.

“No enemy could stand against us. They took power in a coup d’état. They have dictatorial policies,” said Dmitry.

“They’ve created a dictatorship in our backyard,” said Lissa.

“I have just been informed that part of our army has reached the walls of the castle of the *Order of Water*. We need to hurry if we want to win this battle,” said Dmitry.

“Ah, if only the roads were wider. We would’ve got there in an instant,” said Lissa.

“Hurry up. I can’t wait to get there. I have to direct this army. And I also have to catch the leaders fleeing from the castle of the *Order of the Earth*,” said Dmitry.

“I also like to get there soon. It would be a great experience for me,” said Lissa.

“I like to see the face of the commander of the Castle. He is probably as green as a glove,” said Dmitry.

“I’ve just heard that today we have to fight not only the forces of the *Order of Water*. We also have to fight their allies from the *South Inquisition*,” said Lissa.

“Yes, but we still have enough strength. So I think that we will win this battle too. I know that last night, some units from the *South Inquisition* were transferred to the *Order of Water*. So today we have to fight them both. Today we’ll see who is stronger. Is it *Zondon* together with *Zondon Inquisition* stronger than the *Order of Water* and the *South Inquisition*? To be honest I think that we will be stronger,” said Dmitry.

“You should take into account the fact that we don’t engage them in an open field. We attacked them. Thick walls protect them,” said Lissa.

“They aren’t as strong as you think. One way or another, we will win with additional troops from the *South Inquisition*. Many of them will switch sides at the last moment,” said Dmitry with confidence in his voice.

“If we want to win this battle, we must use the best strategy. You studied four years at *Zondon Academy* and five years at the *University of Magi*. I sincerely hope that you know what you’re doing,” said Lissa.

“I know what I’m doing. You should trust me,” said Dmitry.

“*Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* invested a lot of money in this battle. We simply can’t lose today. Otherwise we’ll pay for it,” said Lissa.

“The main reason that we should win is not because lots of money were invested in this battle. It’s because a victory will bring lasting peace to our Commonwealth,” said Dmitry.

“Tell me Dmitry. What do you think we need today to be the winners?” asked Lissa.

“We need a little bit of luck. Everything else will be fine,” said Dmitry.

“We are ready for the long-awaited fight. I think that today is our day,” said Lissa.

“Fortune is on our side. You can’t doubt it. Fortune is always on the non-discriminatory side,” said Dmitry.

Finally, *Zondon*’s and *Zondon Inquisition*’s troops reached their destination. Ahead could be seen the wonderful dark blue new castle of the *Order of Water*. It was built quite recently, after the second war with the dead.

Prior to that, it’s not clear what was going on in these lands. The old castle of the *South Inquisition* was completely destroyed in the second war with the dead. It was decided at last, to build a new castle in the nearby Stavropol Region.

The troops of the *Order of Water* were already waiting for them. They had reinforcements from the *South Inquisition*.

Dmitry ordered his troops to storm the castle. *Zondon*’s missiles flew one after the other, towards the castle of the *Order of Water*. Dmitry wasn’t going to lose this battle.

“So the battle has just began. We’ve been waiting for it. Our rocket launchers surely bomb the castle of the *Order of Water*. Everything goes according to plan,” said Dmitry.

“We should’ve let the general keep an eye on the troops. We dismissed him and now we are in charge,” said Lissa.

“I’m going to send *Zondon*’s helicopters in battle. So our rocket launchers would have to stop shooting,” said Dmitry.

“Do as you see fit. You know what to do, better than I do. What else can I tell you,” said Lissa.

“We have to wait a bit before we’ll send our tanks into battle,” said Dmitry.

“It’s unlikely that the soldiers from the *South Inquisition* exceed in number the soldiers from the *Order of the Water*. Something will decide this battle. Their army isn’t more numerous than ours,” said Lissa.

“There is nothing that we don’t know from a strategic military point of view. When our troops enter the castle of the *Order of the Earth*, and engage into a close fight, I could clearly see the leaders of this order will be on their knees, begging for mercy,” said Dmitry.

“Once we have taken their castle, we will act differently. I wonder how we will behave after we take the *Order of Water*,” said Lissa.

“I think that we will find out soon. However, since we attacked the castle of the *Order of Water*, we don’t have only one enemy as before. We have two enemies,” said Dmitry.

“Ten years ago we wouldn’t have thought that this would happen. But time goes on, and things change,” said Dmitry.

“Ten years ago we were still living in a different world. We fought against the dead,” said Lissa.

“Then, the dead and the evil spirits came out of the ground. We all fought against that evil. But we didn’t stop to think what the other orders were doing. We won against the evil in the north of our country. The local residents have nightmares even now,” admitted Lissa.

“This wasn’t the work of the *Order of the Inquisition*. There were a handful of conspirators amongst them. Many leaders of these orders were trying to stop all this madness, and return to former glory, when all the Inquisitions were united. But it was useless and they’ve failed. Now with all this fighting we have the same aim. We want to bring together all the Inquisition Orders. But we want to use justice so everyone could be happy,” said Dmitry.

“In the *Order of the Inquisition*, there are so many differences. They have lots of problems because of that. Some of them try to bring the country to the next level. Others continue to think that dictatorship is better. They are fighting all the time against each other,” said Lissa.

“They don’t have so big differences between each other. But they can’t agree on specific issues,” said Dmitry.

“The leaders of the Order of the Inquisition are stuck in the mud up to their ears. And they are not able to get out of it,” said Lissa.

“It’s all because of people like Trey. If people wouldn’t like him, it would be much better,” said Dmitry.

Luck was on Zondon’ side. The first paratroopers began to climb down the ropes, landing one after the other on the numerous terraces and towers of the *Order of the Earth*.

“The fight has begun too easily. Our troops are already on balconies and walls. I don’t like all this. Deep into my heart I feel that this is an ambush,” said Dmitry.

“I think it's all because of loopholes in our chain of command,” said Lissa, who found another reason.

“At least, it doesn't look like the leaders of this order are ready to flee, leaving everything to chance. It seems to me that they have a plan to fight to the last man,” said Dmitry.

“I think so, too. The main forces are inside the castle of the Order. We have to engage them into fight. The castle goes below the ground for another five floors. The fact that they handed over to us their balconies and towers, it means nothing to us,” Lissa agreed with her man.

“When we think in the same way, then most likely it's true. I also think that we will meet the main resistance inside the castle,” said Dmitry.

“It's normal for the *Order of the Earth* to have lots of troops. And they have plenty of secret places from which they could ambush us,” said Lissa.

“Don't forget that this is a new castle. It was built with modern technology. There is a multi-layered defence shield. It would be almost impossible to penetrate these shields,” said Dmitry.

“Are you saying that taking our troops over these towers and balconies is nothing,” said Lissa.

“They could push our troops back at any moment, if they want to. But they won't do it. In that case our troops will once again bomb the castle from all sides. They don't like us pounding them with projectiles,” admitted Dmitry.

“Are you telling me that we won't know the outcome until the end?” asked Lissa.

“You can't even imagine how well protected this place is. But I know how to crack their shields, because I was here many times,” said Dmitry.

“Well it's good that you are here. But I don't fully understand. What are you going to do?” said Lissa.

“We can't take the castle in one go. It's well hidden below the ground. But it has its weaknesses. I know where these weak spots are,” said Dmitry.

“I understand. This lock could only be opened from the inside. Once we get to the other end, the lock will automatically be ours,” said Lissa.

“We will have to search, and then crack the weak points in this castle. There is no other way, but we have to use our minds and strength,” said Dmitry.

“We both know that what we do it's with the best intentions. Let us only put all this in practice,” said Lissa.

“Sometimes theory and practice come head to head. It then leads to serious problems,” said Dmitry.

“If we can win this battle, we will be greeted as heroes in Zondon. But if we lose this battle, we won't be allowed to be in charge for a long time,” said Lissa.

All the tanks and armoured vehicles driving up to the castle of the Order of Water, attempted to get through the main gate. Zondon's troops continued to get deeper and deeper inside the castle, creating a shield for the infantry. Meanwhile they were already on the second floor of the castle.

“Things are going well for us. Our tanks are already in the castle. The true levels of protection in the castle of the *Order of Water* are only ten. Each level is different. We will press forward,” said Dmitry.

“We need to do something to help our troops not to go around the circles. They should tear the shields apart. They take too long to find the weak points on all floors. We incur big losses because of this,” said Lissa.

“Our army is faced with a huge resistance on every floor. Our troops can’t push ahead further, until we crush this resistance,” said Dmitry.

“I know that the best architects of our time worked to build this castle. Each floor is different. Each floor is not like the previous one,” explained Lissa.

“The fortress has five floors above ground, and five floors below the ground. But we have a powerful weapon. We also have reliable people,” said Dmitry.

“I don’t know how long we have to wait until we get to the sixth floor, or whether we can go further,” said Lissa.

“Below the ground, we are unable to rely on additional support from outside. Our troops will have to be self-reliant,” said Dmitry.

“I hate these glass doors and walls. It makes you think you are very close, but then you can’t reach there,” said Lissa.

“Such doors and walls have recently become very popular. These are being installed everywhere, even in Zondon,” said Dmitry.

“I can’t wait to take part in this battle. We’ll be remembered not only as commanders, but also as excellent soldiers,” said Lissa.

“I want to take part in this battle. It will shake things up,” said Dmitry.

“Just don’t forget that we are at war. We may even die,” said Lissa.

Dmitry and Lissa decided to send reinforcements to Zondon’s soldiers fighting inside the castle. She wasn’t mistaken when she said she was very much needed there.

“All our troops are already on the third floor. Seven more floors to go, and the castle will fall,” said Dmitry.

“As we have learned from the of the storming of the first two floors, the castle is well protected. Despite the fact that the best architects have made the project, the actual builders didn’t do such a good work,” said Lissa.

“We got to the third floor because we were lucky. Only two bolts secured one of the grilles. We’ve moved quickly to the next floor,” laughed Dmitry.

“And in another place, the wall wasn’t made of concrete. It was made of foam,” smiled Lissa.

“They don’t cease to surprise me. I wonder where do I look next time for a weak spot in their walls,” said Dmitry.

“Maybe they had something in mind. Or they forgot to finish the building properly. I don’t care. The most important thing is that we got through,” said Lissa.

“Making a hole in the walls is still safer than going through a window, which is certainly closely watched by the enemy. In this way, we can find a way around many pitfalls,” said Dmitry.

“Somebody help me find a way to the next floor. I can’t find any stairs,” said Lissa.

“We are here to lead our troops. They can’t see us that we are lost,” said Dmitry.

“We are being slowed down,” said Lissa.

“So what. This place is poorly guarded by the enemy’s troops,” said Dmitry.

“If it wasn’t for this stiff resistance, we would’ve been to the tenth floor already,” said Lissa.

“And yet they are hiding around every corner. There is a group of soldiers at every floor,” said Dmitry.

“Behind this wall there are the stairs, which lead to the next floor. We need to make a hole the wall here in this place,” said Lissa.

“Now we have to get through this hole in the wall and push forward. We must help our soldiers who fight inside the castle of the *Order of Water*. But we don’t go there, just like that. We need some gunfire cover,” said Dmitry.

“This is a great idea. We’ll help our troops further,” said Lissa.

Dmitry and Lissa have just joined their troops on the fourth floor.

This time they all pushed forwards, further into the castle. Dmitry’s men were confident. Dmitry had the Attorand’ Sword in one hand, and a gun in his other hand. Everyone knew the miraculous powers of the Attorand’ Sword. The war with the dead had ended ten years ago. Now more and more soldiers carried only firearms. But Attorand’ Sword gave every soldier hope.

“And here I am,” said Lissa. She had two pistols in her hands, and two short swords, and her belt.

“We already have secured almost half of the castle. Soon we’ll reach the floors below the ground of the castle,” said Dmitry.

“Nothing goes according to plans,” said Lissa.

When the opposing soldiers came face to face, they used their swords. They cut down each other. Unlike everyone else, Dmitry had a weightless sword. He could cut with it quicker than others. But everyone else had heavy weapons.

“Today we had to use the swords even earlier than we thought,” said Dmitry.

“That’s right. I hope that with our skills we will soon take this entire floor,” said Lissa.

“You have found a weak spot on this floor,” said Dmitry, while continuing to repel attacks. And when the right moment came, he went on the attack again.

“Of course we’ll get to the next corner. But first we need to deal with all these soldiers,” said Lissa.

“We had put a lot put pressure on our enemy. And we already took prisoners, about half of the enemy soldiers on this floor,” said Dmitry.

“I always knew that we could count on our soldiers. They’ll take us to victory,” said Lissa.

“Perhaps we should send extra soldiers to that spot. It would accelerate the process of taking that corner,” said Dmitry.

“No. I think that this number of soldiers can handle this corner,” said Lissa.

“We might not call for reinforcements here. But we certainly need backup at the next floor,” said Dmitry.

“We should give a break to these soldiers who fought so hard. Send them away from the battlefield, so they could rest. Bring in fresh troops,” said Lissa.

“Send these soldiers to recuperate, and bring in the fifth company. We must get to the next floor as soon as possible,” said Dmitry.

“We’re almost there,” said Lissa. She threw a grenade into a group of soldiers from the *Order of Water*. An explosion followed. Once the smoke had cleared, Zondon’s soldiers looked down. They saw that the next floor was teeming with enemy soldiers.

“Wow! I think that our enemies outnumber us. How do we get to the next floor?” said Lissa.

“It’s like committing suicide. We have to come up with a new plan,” said Dmitry. While he was waiting for the arrival of fresh soldiers, Dmitry sent away from the battlefield, all those who have survived so far, but who were exhausted. Then, Lissa threw a grenade from the fourth to the fifth floor. Immediately after the explosion, while the smoke was still surrounding the place, Zondon’s troops jumped down one after the other. The enemy fighters didn’t have time to recover. They were taken by surprise.

“Here I am,” said Dmitry.

He was the first to jump down. He immediately went on the offensive.

“Don’t forget me here. I’m with you, too,” said Lissa.

“Today, we all have to prove ourselves,” said Dmitry.

They went on the attack. They began to join gradually the first soldiers from Zondon.

“We are already on the fifth floor beneath the ground of the castle. It’s so nasty here,” said Lissa, while the other soldiers had to move to this floor already.

“Don’t cheer up yet. When we get to the end, then we will celebrate,” said Dmitry.

“Why not? We’ve almost taken this floor of the castle of the *Order of Water*. I think this is a great success,” said Lissa.

“You want to take it first, and then surrender? If the *Order of Water* really wants to kick us out of here, then they could do it,” said Dmitry.

“Why should we surrender? One of the main Zondon’s principles is not to give up their positions,” said Lissa.

“It’s true. But in this case, we don’t hold anything. We should look at all the possibilities we have,” explained Dmitry.

“I don’t like the fact that I can’t find a weak spot on this floor,” admitted Lissa.

“Well, you better look more carefully. Everything has a weak spot. Though, some are harder to find,” said Dmitry.

“Not in this place. And if you don’t believe me, you can check it yourself,” said Lissa.

“I don’t know what to say. The armies of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* are not countless. Our enemies have the gates still in their hands. They could send here,

more and more soldiers from their friendly orders. Even if you can't find the entrance to the next floor, I'll find it," promised Dmitry.

"I wish you luck in this matter. We'll see which of us was right," said Lissa.

"You know, I too can't find the entrance. I don't know what to do," said Dmitry.

"Please, don't tell me that," said Lissa.

She threw several grenades into the enemy positions. Some powerful explosions followed. Lissa sent a powerful spell and enchanted the entire floor. Even so they couldn't find the weak spot in the walls of this floor. The enemy forces continued to pour in. Lissa and Dmitry were in a hopeless situation.

"We won't be here long, if we don't come up with a cunning plan," said Dmitry.

"If we retreat, we won't come here again," said Lissa.

"It's not the worst thing that could happen to us. Even if we were to lose all our soldiers that we have here, we could still bring more troops," said Dmitry.

"No matter how many explosives we use, everything is useless. They have magic works here. You have to be at in the right spot to open the entrance to the next floor. But we don't know where these spots are," admitted Lissa.

"I certainly can't bring more troops here. It would take time to rectify this situation. But I'll see what we could do," said Dmitry.

"Why not bring in some more troops? We must hold this floor a little longer. We always have time to retreat," said Lissa.

"Despite the fact that we have handed back half of the fifth floor, we continue to resist," said Dmitry.

"Do you think we still have a chance to fix everything? I don't want us to lose this battle," said Lissa.

"Let's see. How do I know that we have, what we have?" sighed Dmitry.

"We did the right thing when we've called for reinforcements. We have to move in that direction," judged Lissa, rejoicing at the arrival of new soldiers.

"As soon as the new soldiers arrived here, things became harder for us. The only pity is that our forces are not countless, unlike our enemies," said Dmitry.

"You don't pay any attention to me. I always have more optimistic forecasts. I'm sorry to say that not everything I say comes true," explained Lissa.

Zondon army continued to retreat, losing one floor after another, and no one could help it. Meanwhile, the battle was fought at the second floor. Only here, Zondon's troops were able to gain a foothold.

"If it wasn't for the support of our tanks and helicopters from the outside, then we would have already been kicked out from the castle," said Dmitry.

"And now we're in an even worse situation. We could not find the entrance to the sixth floor, and were eventually pushed back. I don't want to rely on tanks and helicopters from the outside. They've done so much for us. We are indeed indebted to them," said Lissa.

"We should've retreated earlier," said Dmitry.

"Anyway, we don't have any chances to win this battle. It seems we're going to lose,"

said Lissa.

“Everyone has chances. We just can’t make a plan for our entire life,” said Dmitry. “Do you think we should hold a little longer at this floor, before pulling back?” said Lissa.

“We dismissed two experienced commanders, and we rushed them to the front, before this battle started. Now, we don’t know what to do in this situation,” said Dmitry.

“Attorand’ Sword provides additional strength to our soldiers. But it’s a little confusing when we fight countless armies,” said Lissa.

“We started on the wrong foot from the beginning. We got what we deserve losing today’s battle,” said Dmitry.

“Actually, it’s not all that bad. In one day, we were able to bring lots of problems to our enemies. When our troops shall come back again, this castle could hardly stand. If we had fought on an open field, we would’ve thrashed them,” said Lissa.

“Today we were involved in a fierce battle. But it doesn’t glorify our names, because we are likely to lose this battle,” said Dmitry, opening his eyes to the truth.

“We did everything we could. I believe we’ve fulfilled our duty,” said Lissa.

“We can’t find the entrance to the next floor. I’m accountable for this. Why don’t we pull back from this castle?” said Dmitry.

“Perhaps, if we had found the entrance to the sixth floor, we would have opened Pandora's Box. Everyone might’ve died. We are barely holding our position, here at the second floor. There we might’ve been crushed,” said Lissa.

“We can’t defeat a countless army. Besides, we don’t know what would’ve happened,” said Dmitry.

“Let's see when Galita, Ditta and Gamma will show up over the castle. I think they won’t give us any surprises. They are three extraordinary young women, it’s true,” said Lissa.

It didn’t make sense to hold the lines in the castle any longer. The time had come when they had to retreat. But the battle didn’t end there. Zondon’s fighters still had strength and they continued fighting while pulling back from their positions.

Dmitry and Lissa had ordered their soldiers to use heavy weapons, and raze everything to the ground. If they will come back it would be easier for them.

“We have a good weapon. We shall destroy everything which stands above the ground,” said Dmitry.

“After all, it isn’t that easy to come here and get instant results,” said Lissa.

“Who knows when we shall manage to storm again the castle. I might stain my reputation as commander in chief,” said Dmitry

“After our ally Ditta and her other two friends will show up with extra strength from the air, our fortunes might change,” explained Lissa.

“Our Army doesn’t have countless number of soldiers. If we had, the balance of power will swing in our favour,” said Dmitry.

“Even if we defeat the *Order of the Water*, our struggle won’t be over. We still have many battles ahead of us, with various orders,” said Lissa.

“I'm not going to leave this place yet. We haven’t yet razed the castle to the ground,” said Dmitry.

“Don’t be so cruel to other people. Each soldier has his own fate,” said Lissa.

“I am ready to deploy our entire army if I need to. I want to raze the entire castle to the ground. And I don’t care what happens next,” said Dmitry.

“We have enough equipment to do just that. We’ll bring the caste down,” said Lissa.

“I want everyone to know that Dmitry was here. The razed to the ground castle, will be the poof that I was indeed here,” said Dmitry.

“You are a well-known star in the *wizard world*. Who could ever forget you,” smiled Lissa.

“Before I leave this world, I will give this Order lots of trouble,” said Dmitry.

“Sometimes you forget that you don’t fight with the dead. Here are human beings, and in this case it’s different,” said Lissa.

“Finally, the castle’s walls are crumbling,” said Dmitry.

“I never doubted that our soldiers know how to fight. I saw them fighting before,” said Lissa.

“I just want to see them engaging an enemy, who numbers more,” said Dmitry.

“They are in no way, not going to fight. It’s too dangerous,” said Lissa.

“Well, they might attack only those who are weaker, thus showing cowardice,” said Dmitry.

“When our soldiers fight an enemy who is stronger than them, they rely on us for guidance,” said Lissa.

“That is a thing of the past. Zondon is no longer going to tolerate it. This time, we decided to give them the order, and let them fight to their best abilities,” said Dmitry.

“How good that Queen Abellin provided us with the latest munition technologies. If it wasn’t for that, we wouldn’t be able to get out of here alive,” explained Lissa.

“In turn, the troops of the *Order of Water* and *South Inquisition* had fired on our fighting vehicles with all their might. But it still withstands the fire,” replied Dmitry.

“I agree with you. They try in vain. They won’t be able to smash any of our armoured vehicles,” said Lissa.

“We need these armoured vehicles in other battles,” said Dmitry.

“In my opinion our equipment is constantly exposed to attacks. If we don’t take contra measures, we will soon be kicked out of here,” said Lissa.

“Then we just have to regroup. Whatever the case might be, I think we are stuck. It may take a while, but before we leave this place, we will have to raze the castle to the ground,” said Dmitry.

“If we don’t re-deploy our equipment, the enemy might destroy it,” said Lissa.

“You know, I don’t intend to listen to your advice,” said Dmitry.

“Among other things, we lose also because we’ve sent two experienced generals to the front,” reminded Lissa.

“The fate of an army is more important than the fate of two generals. A majority of people think that I am one of the best commander in chief, throughout the *wizard world*. Even if I’ve failed this task, do you think that anybody else could’ve have

done it? It turns out to be, that the castle of the *Order of Water* was built especially to withstand any attack. But only the first five floors were designed that way,” said Dmitry.

“Please listen to me. If we regroup, we will still be able to destroy the base below the ground of the castle,” said Lissa.

“Well, I heard you last time. But I don’t intend to do so. What you’re telling me is not going to happen,” said Dmitry.

“If you think that this is the way to do it, then it’s OK,” said Lissa.

With each passing moment, more and more military equipment continued to fail. Dmitry decided at last to give the order to regroup the troops.

“I hope you are happy now. Our troops are re-grouped, in order to change the position we had,” said Dmitry.

“Could we hold out here a little longer?” asked Lissa.

“We almost managed to raze the castle of the *Order of Water* to the ground. We can’t put our troops to any other risks,” said Dmitry.

“We should’ve gone deep below the ground floor. But we’ve still done a good job even in this way,” explained Lissa.

“I can’t wait, until our troops regroup again, and continue the fight,” said Dmitry.

“I hope everyone will understand. We’ve done everything possible to win this battle,” said Lissa.

“We still have some military equipment left. I want to send it into battle right now,” said Dmitry.

“It’s a great idea. Let’s do it,” said Lissa.

“Thanks to our know-how, we could still come up on the top,” said Dmitry.

“We have to start gathering our troops tightly, if we don’t want anyone left here,” said Lissa.

“Our medical support works flawlessly. We don’t have any issues,” said Dmitry.

“You think well. We will be OK,” responded Lissa.

Finally, the troops regrouped and continued to smash the castle of the *Order of Water*. “It remains for us to shoot a last shot. Soon it will all be over,” said Dmitry with a sigh of relief.

“We pushed forwards four floors. We’ve nearly occupied the fifth floor,” said Lissa.

“We have to level this castle to the ground. We must do this before we leave this place,” said Dmitry.

“I also don’t want to leave this place before the right time. I think this is the right time,” said Lissa.

“Despite the fact that we were not able to take the castle, we must at least partially destroy it,” said Dmitry.

“So be it. Today we must do everything to ensure that next time we shall capture this place,” said Lissa.

“I hope that we shall come back. I hope that Queen Abellin would allow us to storm the castle once more,” said Dmitry.

“Who knows? I could be that after this, we will get better jobs. Although it’s unlikely, because we’ve lost this battle,” said Lissa.

“When Ditta and Gamma will come with their fighter jets, they’ll give us some air support,” said Dmitry.

“No one has any doubt that in the future, the castle of the *Order of Water* will fall under our influence. We were already here, and we shall come back,” said Lissa.

“It would be good to happen. We’ve tried so hard to get it,” said Dmitry.

“All the fifth floor it’s destroyed. It’s time to leave these lands,” said Lissa, and she brought him back to his senses.

Zondon’s troops razed the castle to the ground. And after doing this, they are with a clear conscience. They’ve started going back home, dragging the wounded, survivors, and combat equipment.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Brussels

Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kate, Kelly, Griff, Miel, Selen, Neon and Leagun crossed the border into Belgium, and they drove straight to Antwerp. In one day they had to drive through this entire country.

Their second stop would be in Brussels. And in the evening they expected to reach France. Then, they would go to the UK and take the *magic wand* from there.

“When we’ve started our journey, we haven’t even thought that one day we will be here,” said Artborg.

“From here to France we could drive very fast. But we shouldn’t hurry. We should go through remote places, because enemy agents could be anywhere,” said Hezzord.

“It would be better for all of us, if we spend all day here in Belgium. Only in the evening we should cross into France. It would be safer for all of us,” said Mennon.

“While we were in Holland, we were nearly caught several times in ambushes. But every single time, Neon and Leagun have rescued us,” said Kate.

“Here in Belgium, everything will be even more difficult than we’ve encountered up to this time,” warned Kelly.

“Enemy agents have missed us in Holland. But they don’t intend to repeat their mistakes here in Belgium,” said Griff.

“They know that we are here. But with our Neon and Leagun as guides, I think we will keep out of harm’s way. Neon and Leagun have never let us down,” said Miel.

“We promise that until we reach the UK, we will be very careful,” said Selen.

“You are right. We shouldn’t be uncomfortable. We are here with you. I don’t regret even a little bit, that I’ve agreed to come with you,” admitted Neon.

“We will try to read our map. You could use it, even if you are not with us in France and Britain. We still have time, and we’ll make it,” promised Leagun.

“You’re funny. What could we do in France without you,” sighed Artborg.

“We have only met you yesterday. Tomorrow we’ll have to say goodbye to you again,” said Hezzord.

“It’s all due to the fact that everyone in this car, had paid little attention to what was being foretold,” added Mennon.

“The more people we are, the less time we have to take decisions,” said Kate.

“The more we are, the less time we have to focus our attention on our own person,” said Kelly.

“Arhir and Barhir have predicted to us this. We shall meet reliable friends throughout our trip,” said Griff.

“All of their predictions came true. We had indeed meet in Belgium our mates from Zondon,” said Miel.

“I don’t doubt for a moment that in France we won’t meet reliable allies. Arhir and Barhir were never wrong. So in the last two countries we think that we will manage without you. But here we need you,” said Selen.

“If we had more time, we could help you in France. Unfortunately we were assigned somewhere else,” said Neon.

“We want to help you. We try to do everything in our power to help you obtain the *magic wand*,” said Leagun.

Our heroes approached the city of Antwerp. This city was also one of the largest ports in Europe. It was nearly as big as Rotterdam in Holland.

“Antwerp is the biggest city in Belgium. We should go and visit it,” said Artborg.

“Unlike Rotterdam, the old Antwerp is well-preserved to this day,” said Kate.

“There are a lot of interesting things to see. We should stay a little longer in this city,” said Kelly.

“We shouldn’t forget about our enemy’s agents. They are everywhere. If they see us, it can end in bloodbath,” said Miel.

“This city has many historic streets. This means we’ll experience many detours. If we are very careful, we won’t get into any trouble,” said Selen.

“It depends on how many enemy agents are lurking around. And another advantage we have, is that they can’t block every street,” said Griff.

“Despite the fact that this country is small, even if compared with any other European country, it’s densely populated,” said Neon.

“It means that here isn’t Zondon or the United Kingdom,” said Leagun.

“Everything will be okay. We will get you out of here,” said Neon.

“During the time you didn’t accompany us, we were able to travel around on every street,” said Kate.

After agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* infiltrated into Holand and Belgium, the local army, and troops from the *Joint European Magic Army* left this area. Only a few cities couldn’t be infiltrated. The other places were in a complete mess.

“Because this region lies between Germany and France, the official languages here, are Dutch, French and German. Also, this country is divided into two regions: Flanders and Valonia. Mainly the Dutch inhabit the first region, while the French,” inhabit the second region,” said Artborg.

“Who knows how many tourist spots are here? I’d like to go and visit these places,” said Kate.

“I think that first, we should visit the local ports, the Diamonds’ Museum, as well as the main square in the city,” said Leagun.

“You forgot to mention the cathedral and castle walls,” said Neon.

“We are in Antwerp. We won’t go any further,” said Griff.

“Enemy agents are lurking here. They could stop us at any moment. We will visit the local attractions,” said Artborg.

“We have one day to do everything we want. Our target is already very close. But we don’t want to get to it right now,” said Mennon.

“What do you mean *very close*? If we were to drive straight through France, we would be already dead,” said Leagun.

“It’s true that there were some scuffles there with enemy agents. No one knows when that will end,” said Neon.

“Troops from the Magic Army of the United Kingdom, have kept our enemies at bay. But the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*, have flooded all the other regions around here with their agents,” said Artborg.

“I also think that we will meet with enemy agents in England too. I believe that there will be fierce battles,” agreed Hezzord.

“The agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* are ready to fight to the last drop of blood. They’ll try to stop as getting the *magic wand*,” said Mennon.

“They don’t want us to have this weapon. Its strength is comparable to the Attorand’s Sword,” explained Kate.

“The *Attorand’s Sword* and the *Magic wand* will make Zondon invincible. We shall defeat all our enemies,” said Kelly.

“Our enemies would be very glad to stop us. But they are too late, because we are already in Belgium. Soon we shall be in the UK,” said Griff.

“Agents of the *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Earth* want to get this *magic wand* too. They may even try to attack the castle where these weapons are kept,” said Miel.

“Come on! This castle is well protected. Besides, they wouldn’t dare to attack it,” said Selen.

“They are willing to send as many soldiers as needed, just to take this *wand*. If you don’t believe what I say, then remember what was going on, even before we got here,” said Neon.

Our heroes have stopped their cars near the port of Antwerp. They took a walk, and a breath of fresh air.

“I’ve imagined ports a little differently than this port. This is full of cargo containers,” admitted Artborg.

“You probably wanted to see a pier full of beautiful yachts. This port has nothing to do with pleasure. Trade is the main concern here,” said Mennon.

“Let’s leave this place quickly. I’m not here to enjoy myself. We could easily run into another ambush,” said Artborg.

“Wait for the others. We all came here. At least let’s have a little walk,” said Kate.

“We didn’t come here to leave straight away. Let’s walk,” said Kelly.

Mennon was right. Suddenly, without any apparent reason, shots were fired at them from a nearby small brick building. It caught them by surprise.

“Well, let’s take cover right here,” said Griff.

“We’ve just arrived to this country, and we’re already in trouble,” said Miel.

“It’s always the case. If we continue to be careless, we will be their target,” said Selen.

“Okay,” said Neon.

He crawled closer to the building, and with one shot he killed an enemy agent. True, there were only two enemy agents. The second agent attacked Neon with a knife, knocking him off his feet. But Leagun hit the agent on the head with his rifle.

“It seems everything OK. But we have to leave this place as quickly as possible, until this place won’t fill with enemy agents,” said Leagun.

Our friends went back to their cars. They drove off, without even looking back. Luckily nothing happened. They weren’t detected, so they could continue their journey through the country.

“Thank you very much. What would we do without you? You quickly got rid of those enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“I think we’re safe. Other enemy agents might’ve heard the shots, but we left before they could understand what was happening,” said Neon.

“We have just came into this city, and we have caused already so much noise. And our enemies haven’t kept quiet either,” said Kate.

“I warned everyone that we should be very careful while we are here,” said Leagun.

“The two enemy agents didn’t have time to report the exact coordinates where we are. You can relax because everyone has heard only two shots.

“They failed to catch us. But now they will carefully monitor each site in the city,” said Griff.

“And they are so many, that even the *Joint European Magic Army* could not cope with all of them,” said Kate.

“Let’s hurry and leave this town,” said Kelly.

“It was a bad idea to come here. We could’ve paid with our lives. At the moment all the entrances and exits of this town are blocked. If we hurry, we’ll just get into an ambush,” said Selen.

“It would be better for all of us, if we wait until everything calms down. Only then we should leave the city.

Meanwhile, our heroes approached the Antwerp Cathedral. It was the main attraction of this city. It could be seen from any point in the city.

“We have a bit of time. We should spend it wisely,” said Artborg.

“We still have many things to see, before we get to the *magic wand*,” said Hezzord.

“It’s wonderful. And if we are lucky, tonight we will be in France,” said Kate.

“I think so too. It’s my destiny,” said Kelly.

“And here's the Cathedral. I hope you are happy that we came to visit it,” said Griff.

“Next, we plan to visit the *Town Hall* in the main square. It’s adorned with various flags,” explained Miel.

“It will be interesting to look at the local *Museum of Diamonds* and to compare it with the *Diamond Collection*, which is in Moscow,” said Mennon.

“The old castle walls are also an interesting place, because there is a museum of navigation,” said Selen.

“The old castle it's so ancient, that people don’t even know the exact date when it was built. The old castle was always here,” said Neon.

“We’ve spent a whole week on these lands. We haven’t received any assistance. Agents of the *Order of the Fire* and *Order of the Earth* are doing what they want here,” said Kate.

Our heroes slowed down their cars in the main square, near the *Town Hall*. They got out of their cars and breathed in some fresh air.

“From here, I can see the monument on the main square,” said Artborg.

“Agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* have infiltrated this place. They could be anywhere around here,” said Neon.

“This time I have a feeling that we are being watched. Let us quickly leave this place before we run into trouble,” said Kate.

“I agree with Kate. Our job is more important than a short visit to the *Town Hall*. I don’t want to die here,” said Kelly.

“Well, then let’s leave this place,” said Griff, while everyone came back to the cars.

As soon as our friends were back to their cars, an enemy vehicle appeared around the corner, and opened fire on them. They returned the fire. From the *City Hall* came more enemy agents. Kate was right all along. They have been followed. They needed to get out of this place as quickly as possible.

“Well, we were ambushed again. What are we going to do?” asked Miel.

“It’s easy. Let’s quickly leave this place, before they block all exits,” said Mennon and he fired back.

“Our enemy agents are everywhere. We would be very lucky if we could manage escape this chase,” said Selen.

“We should be more careful, knowing that this town is full of enemy agents,” said the Neon.

“Don’t worry, we know what to do. We had this problem before,” said Leagun.

“We left Holland without a hitch. But here in Belgium is no better than in previous countries,” complained Artborg.

“We knew what was happening in the heart of the city. And we still came here,” said Leagun.

“We have a little while until we get to Brussels. And if we are not careful, we might never get there,” said Neon.

“We thought that we could sneak unnoticed under our enemy’s noses. But our plan has failed,” said Kate.

Our heroes drove off in their cars. They’ve postponed the visits to the *Museum of Diamonds*, and to the old city walls, due to the fact that they were discovered and shot at, in the main square.

“We had to leave Antwerp early. It means that we can spend more time in Brussels,” said Griff.

“We go to the Belgian Capital City. We still haven’t escaped from our pursuers,” Miel reminded them.

“We have a fast car. I think that we could leave these agents behind,” said Neon.

“Is it true. Last time we fixed our cars in Poland at Arhir and Barhir. Then we ran into another ambush in Germany,” said Kate.

“Our cars should be ok until we reach France. There we could check up our engines, so we could drive our cars safely,” said Kelly.

“Please accept our sincere apologies. We promise that this won’t happen again,” said Neon.

“Unfortunately, we couldn’t help you repel enemy agents this time,” said Leagun.

“Don’t worry. We are trained soldiers. We’ll deal ourselves with our enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“We kept away from this ambush,” added Hezzord.

“I also believe that we will soon be able to get away from this chase,” said Selen.

“We are experienced soldiers. We know how to vanish in a crowd. We’ve done this more than once,” said Miel.

“Our enemy agents are right behind us. But with a bit of luck they will lose us,” said Griff.

“Get ready for the great chase,” said Miel.

Soon after that, our heroes have suddenly driven their cars through a tunnel. In this way they lost their pursuers who were at a loss and didn’t know where were the cars, which drove in front of them few moments earlier. So our heroes continued their journey to Brussels.

“Hurrah, we’ve finally got rid of them. I’m glad the chase has ended. We must be very careful. One wrong move could get us into trouble,” said Kate.

“Our main task is to get to France by tonight. We have to be careful about ambushes. We raised much hell in this region. Now we are being watched,” said Kelly.

“Most importantly, we know we have to leave this place. Everything will be fine. Our next stop is Brussels. We shall be there soon,” said Selen.

“The road from Antwerp to Brussels, isn’t so infiltrated with enemy agents. We can get to Brussels easily,” said Artborg.

“We can’t afford not to get there. Zondon needs that *Miracle Wand*,” explained Hezzord.

“Since we can’t stop, we will get there sooner. That *Magic wand* will be in our hands,” added Kate.

“Despite the fact that Brussels is smaller than Antwerp, enemy agents will be there too. It’s the main town,” said Kelly.

“Then perhaps we’d better not drive into the city. We should by-pass it,” offered Griff.

“We can’t by-pass this city. It’s crucial for us to get there,” said Miel.

“We have already travelled so much. It’s unlikely that we would get killed exactly in Brussels,” said Mennon.

“We won’t die in Brussels. We are meant to do important things,” said Selen.

“When we tried to sneak under the noses of our enemies in Antwerp, they saw us. We blundered in front of spy cameras. It won’t happen again in Brussels,” promised Neon.

“In this city we know the location of all CCTV cameras. It will be all right,” summed up Leagun.

Meanwhile, our heroes drove to Brussels, completely forgetting about the fact that until quite recently, they were being chased. Such was their eagerness.

“We are almost there. We will be in Brussels soon,” said Neon.

“This city is full of attractions. We will show them to you,” promised Leagun.

“We no longer want to have anything to do with you, if you lead us into another ambush,” said Artborg.

“Calm down. It was just a mistake. It won’t happen again,” said Hezzord.

“Where are we going to start our journey through Brussels,” asked Kate.

“Probably, at the *Grand Palace*. This city also has a *Royal Palace*, and a *Royal Theatre*,” said Kelly.

“It also has a big *Museum of Musical Instruments*. And it has a *Museum of Military History*,” added Griff.

“Cool it. We don’t have time to see all of these places. For instance, in Antwerp we planned to do lots of things. But we’ve left the town immediately,” said Miel.

“In Cologne, we’ve also been in the same situation. We were lucky to escape,” explained Selen.

“We’ve been instructed to bring back the *magic wand* to Zondon. It’s an honour for us all,” said the Neon.

“After all, the truth is this. It’s better to fight in Europe than somewhere in a desert,” said Leagun.

“I love travelling through different countries. To me it’s great. So we must not forget that we are on a mission,” said Kate.

“Everyone loves to travel. But we also need to bring the *magic wand* back to Zondon,” said Kelly.

“We have travelled almost this entire country. We only have to visit Brussels,” said Kate.

“It will be cool when we get to France. That will be marvellous,” said Miel.

“If you just travel by plane from Moscow to London, you can’t see all this beauty. And you won’t meet so many people,” said Griff.

“Yes. And we couldn’t possibly have so much fun,” said Miel.

“That’s right. We are proud to have met along the way such reliable friends like you,” said Leagun.

“Our group won’t be complete, without you. We support each other,” said Selen. Our heroes found themselves inside the glorious city of Brussels. And here was something to see indeed. But as they drove closer to the city centre, they found a gated street.

“It’s useless to continue searching through a gated streets. We might have to get rid of at least one enemy agent. Other way we can’t get inside,” Neon assessed the situation.

“Just trust us, and we will quickly solve this problem. Because we know what to do in situations like this,” promised Leagun.

“Well, if you will need our help, we will be happy to help,” said Artborg.

“Any ideas how are we going to trap those enemy agents?” asked Hezzord.

“There are some scaffolds on the side of the street. If we could bring them down on our enemies’ heads, then other agents will gather to look at what has just happened. While they will be busy, we’ll slip inside the city un-noticed,” proposed Kate.

“A brilliant plan. I like it,” said Kelly

“What about plan B? You know, in case plan A fails,” said Selen.

“I don’t quite understand why shouldn’t it go according to plan A. But if plan A fails, we will be able to fight our enemy agents, who are left here,” waved Griff.

“We have ten well-armed fighters in our squad. We shouldn’t be afraid of anyone,” said Miel.

“If you take us to France in one piece, then we can go further away,” said Mennon.

“We’ll look for new friends once again,” sighed Selen.

“I promise you that everything will be neat,” said the Neon.

And with the help of magic, he has brought down the scaffolding on the heads of their enemy agents.

“Let’s wait a little bit. Other enemy agents will soon come running here. We could move then to the City Centre,” said Leagun.

“And here they are. They run even faster than we thought,” said Artborg.

“I think it’s time for us to go,” said Hezzord, walking on the other side of the building.

“If we don’t hurry, our enemy agents will go back to their seats. We’ll have to look for other solutions to this problem,” said Kate, while they tried to drive through an empty checkpoint.

“It will be very good if we get quicker to the city centre,” said Kelly.

Suddenly the gate closed under their noses. They all went to talk to the agent.

“Please, show me your ID’s,” said the guard.

“One moment, please” said Griff, not knowing what to do in this situation.

“If you fail to show me your ID’s, I’ll have to stop you,” said the guard.

“I have your ID,” Miel said to Griff.

When the enemy agent came closer to see the ID’s, she stabbed him in the neck with a hidden retractable blade. He fell on the spot.

“Let’s hurry up,” Mennon gave the signal. He stepped out of his car and he pressed the button to lift the barrier.

“Not so fast! If you make another move, an entire platoon from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* will be here in no time,” said another agent, who was at that checkpoint. He was ready at any moment to activate the alarm.

“Don’t make me laugh,” said Selen, who grabbed his silenced gun, and he shot the agent in the head.

“Help!” was the last word the agent said before he fell over. But it wasn’t loud enough to be heard.

Our heroes have gone through the checkpoint, leaving behind many traces that they’ve been there. They were driving around, through the city of Brussels.

“Look! There is the *Grand Palace*. It’s a beautiful place. There are many things to see,” the Neon.

“This is the last city we visit in this country. Very soon we will have to leave it,” Leagun reminded them.

“We escaped from that ambush quickly. It’s good,” said Artborg.

“As soon as we leave this city, we’ll drive not-stop all the way to France,” said Hezzord.

“All roads that lead out of this town are blocked. If we want to leave this town, we have to come up with another plan,” said Mennon.

“The time to leave this city will come sooner or later,” said Kate.

“If we haven’t been ambushed so many times, we would’ve reached our destination,” said Kelly.

“It would have been a uncomplicated journey. But since we fell into so many ambushes, our names will go down in history,” said Griff.

“We will always remember the wind mills of Holland,” said Miel.

“When we’ll tell a story from our travel, it will be worthy of note,” said Selen.

“I have a soft spot for old towns and castles. I love them,” said Neon.

“Life in those towns and castles must’ve been remarkable,” said Leagun.

“I also believe that old buildings should be restored, and kept as a cultural heritage,” said Kate.

“Our trip to Brussels has only just begun. We still don’t have enough time to explore everything here,” said Kelly.

“I hope that we aren’t falling into another ambush near the Grand Palace. If that would be the case, we’ll say goodbye to this city,” said Miel.

“I don’t think we should use force, if our way would be blocked again,” said Kate.

“And then, we should run away once more. And leave all this lovely city behind us,” said Kelly.

“Everything has a beginning, but it also has an end. Then again, anyone of us could reach our destination,” said Artborg.

“France is one of the largest country in Europe. And it’s also one of the main forces behind the European Union. If the EU were a truck, then France and Germany would be the engine,” said Mennon.

“We are almost finished visiting this street. Fortunately for us the next street isn’t blocked. We can drive and see some more local streets,” said Kate.

Meanwhile, our heroes were on the main square of this town. They were close to the Grand Palace, the City Hall, and the Royal Palace.

“In this area is a large chunk of all the local attractions. We should go and visit them all. We can learn much about this city,” said the Neon.

“We might have to stop here. We don’t have much time,” said Leagun.

“We must visit the Royal Palace, before we leave this city. Do you find it impressive?” said Kelly.

“Look there. I think I’ve spotted the headquarters of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* in Brussels. I think we should keep away from there. I don’t want to experience again what we experienced in Antwerp,” said Kate.

“We should be very careful. We have no one else to help us,” said Kelly.

“It will be very risky. But we still want to visit this place,” said Kate.

“It will be easy to visit there. But it would be on the condition that we were prisoners,” explained Kelly.

“Let’s go and visit this place. I think it’s a good idea. Everything will be fine,” said Miel.

“Despite the fact that we have to go through two checkpoints, which are ahead of us, we will have many adventures,” said Kate.

“We know that from France to the UK, we won’t be your guides,” said Leagun.

Our heroes have left the Main Square in Brussels. They drove past the beautiful buildings, on which was written *The Museum of Musical Instruments*. Due to the fact that every other way of access was blocked, they could only follow the road towards the Royal Palace.

“If we’re going to go to the *Museum of Musical Instruments*, then we shouldn’t go to visit the Royal Palace,” said Artborg.

“We need to choose only one venue. We don’t have enough time,” explained Hezzord.

“After the war with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will be over, we’ll have to come again and visit all these places,” said Mennon.

“Due to the fact that we missed a lot of local attractions, we’ll have to come back here again, so we could see everything thoroughly,” said Kate.

“Maybe there won’t be a next time,” said Kelly.

“To tell you the truth, I’m going to miss Neon and Leagun. In France we will get a couple of new guides,” confessed Griff.

“Don’t worry. We’ll see them again in Zondon,” promised Miel.

“We might not reach our destination. We could get killed to the last one,” added Selen.

“I hope that everyone heard about Dmitry and Lissa’s first defeat, at the hands of the *Order of the Water*,” said Neon, who changed the subject.

“These latest news are quite debated throughout the *wizard world*,” said Leagun.

“This morning, I’ve also read news in one of the most popular newspapers,” said Artborg.

“This is not the end of this story. In the very near future, there will be a battle with the *Order of the Air*. And we hope that Ditta and Gamma will show everyone how good they are,” said Hezzord.

“Galita, Ditta and Gamma have always succeeded on the battlefield. This show of force will be interesting to see,” said Mennon.

“We didn’t even buy ice cream, while we were in the Main Square in Brussels. We quickly left the place,” Kate complained.

“If we’ve sat there too long, the area would’ve filled with enemy agents. I think that we’ve left the place without any incident,” said Kelly.

“I feel that our fight with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* hasn’t ended. They are not our only enemy,” said Griff.

“When we win the war against the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*, everyone is going to see how good we are,” said Miel.

“As time goes by, each year we have more and more powerful enemies,” said Selen.

“Take the *Order of the Elements* for example. Ten years ago they were young. Who doesn’t want a medal at that age? They’ve achieved great results as they’ve matured,” said Neon.

“We all know these two orders. But I tell you this. Soon we shall be stronger than the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. And we will get rid of them once and for all,” said Leagun.

Ahead of them there was the Royal Palace. They’ve stopped and looked carefully. It was a beautiful building, worthy to be remembered.

“How beautiful is the Royal Palace,” said Artborg.

“We can’t go too close to the palace. Also we can’t go behind the building,” said Hezzord.

“We came to this spot because here won’t be any enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“I propose we should stick close to each other. It’s easy to get lost,” said Kate.

“Are you scared of agents? You shouldn’t be. We are good fighters,” said Kelly.

“This palace was built bit by bit. It took quite a long time,” said Miel.

“I think it’s time for us to leave,” said Selen.

“I can’t breathe easily until we leave this place,” said Miel.

“They all like it here, but they just pretend otherwise,” thought Hezzord.

Another car stopped at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Brussels. When they will be to the other side of the road, they will drive non-stop all the way to France.

“I don’t know how are we going to get out soon enough, this time,” said Griff.

“Agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of the Elements* will be here soon. Let’s get out of here quickly,” Miel agreed with him.

“I have an idea. Do you see that building tower crane? It has a load hanging from it.

If we could shoot the cable accurately, the load will fall, and all the inquisitors will come see what happened. In the meantime we sleep out of town without being noticed by our enemy agents.

“You know, I like this plan. It sounds a bit like the previous one. I approve it,” said Mennon.

“We can’t attack the checkpoint. If we do, they will bring reinforcements. We will be slaughtered,” said Griff.

“I also like this idea. We should put it in practice,” said Artborg.

Hezzord grabbed a sniper rifle. From his seat at the back of the car, he shot the crane’s cable. Its load fell to the ground making a loud noise. Their enemy agents ran to the scene.

“Follow me. We might still have time to get out,” Mennon warned all.

“Step on the accelerator,” said Kate.

But they didn’t have time to get out, because the gate closed again, just in front of them.

“Well, we’re caught in a trap again,” sighed Kelly, not knowing what to do next.

“What’s there at the stop barrier?” was heard a voice of an agent. He was ready at any moment call for reinforcements.

“Full speed ahead,” said Griff, and he threw a grenade towards the agent. A powerful explosion was heard, after which an enemy agent opened fire.

“We urge you to lay down your arms. We guarantee that you will remain alive,” came the voice of another agent through a loudspeaker.

“What next?” said Griff and he threw another grenade at a target, and the shootings stopped.

“Okay, now it's time to get out of this city,” said Selen. In the meantime their car drove away from the city.

“We have successfully managed to leave this city. It seems to us, that there won’t be a chase,” said Kate.

“We have to drive a bit, and today's mission will soon be completed,” said Kelly. Our heroes drove along the road towards France.

“These lands are under the control of the French army. There won’t be any enemy agents,” explained Artborg.

“Just a few days ago, some French troops came here for a relief of these border lands,” said Hezzord, telling them what he read in the newspapers.

“Well, let's see what awaits us in France. There will be fights, too,” said Mennon.

“The north of France was infiltrated by enemy agents right up to Paris. I don’t know how we going to get to UK in only two days,” said Kate.

“The French army will keep our enemy agents quiet,” said Kelly.

“When we were in Poland, Arhir and Barhir had promised us that in France we would meet reliable allies. I believe it will come true,” said Kate.

“It's frightening to imagine what will happen if the agents of the *Order of Inquisition* and *Order of Elements* will be able to move to the British Isles,” said Miel.

“I don’t think it will be the case,” said Selen.

“So far, the Magic Army of the United Kingdom is trying to block access to all the agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and *Order of Elements*. In the end they can’t

be too careful, and some agents might get through. It happened in Holland and Belgium, but not France,” said Neon.

“I still hope that we can get through, and get the *magic wand* before our enemy agents get to the UK. Otherwise it will be very hard,” said Artborg.

“At the moment we have only ten people. They have countless agents, and I don’t intend to enter into such an unequal fight,” Hezzord assessed the situation.

“It’s great that we are safe, but don’t relax, because our enemy agents are still very close to us,” said Kate.

“The further we go in the direction of France, we’ll be more secure,” said Kelly.

“It seems dangerous at first, but don’t be scared, because very soon we cross the border,” said Selen.

“I think that today we had a good day. We’ve quickly figured out all the enemies,” Griff assessed the situation.

“And tomorrow will be even better than today. We’re only sorry that Neon and Leagun will leave us,” said Miel.

“We are making progress. Soon the *magic wand* will be in our hands,” said Kate.

“I am very upset because we left Brussels in a hurry. This city is well guarded. But luckily we went out of harm’s way,” said Selen.

“They’ve staged two, well thought ambushes. But we’ve managed to escape,” said Kate.

“We were very lucky. If they’ve called in reinforcements, it would’ve been quite different,” said Artborg.

“But we put a big fight. Now we are well away from that place,” continued Hezzord.

“Our trip to this region comes to an end. But ahead of us are still waiting new adventures,” promised Mennon.

“Tonight, we shall take some rest. Tomorrow morning we will begin our journey towards Paris,” said Kate.

“We only spent half a day in Antwerp. Then we decided to stop in Brussels. Now we are on the road again,” said Kelly.

“It gets better for us by the minute,” said Griff.

“We only have to complete this journey successfully, and deliver the *magic wand* back to Zondon,” said Miel.

“After securing the weapon, we can go back home. This will increase the chances of victory for *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* over the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*,” Selen explained.

“We’ve guided you to France. Tomorrow morning we will leave you,” said Neon.

“We still have a night ahead of us. During this time, we promise you that we will get for you a magic map of France and Britain,” promised Leagun.

They could see France ahead, and our heroes could breathe easily at least for now. They’ve stopped for the night. Driving at night would be out of question.

CHAPTER TWELVE

PARIS

This time, Artborg, Hezzord, Mennon, Kate, Kelly, Griff, Miel and Selen, as well as Neon and Leagun continued their way through France. Because of the fights they had in the previous countries they've visited, the road to the United Kingdom was temporarily shut down for them. They had to go south towards Paris, as they had planned to spend one night in that metropolis. The conflict between the magicians and inquisitors has continued to flare up more and more, gaining a continental scale.

"Before we get to Paris, we will have to pass through Lille, a city which is located at the border. But there are no hostilities from our enemy agents," explained Artborg.

"The French stopped the agents from the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. They put an end to any possibility that these agents might attack as again," explained Kate.

"I'm glad they've done something to help us," said Kelly.

"It's only early in the morning. I think we all have plenty of time, until nightfall. It's not such a long way," explained Hezzord.

"Ah, Paris is such a beautiful city. France is the major country in the European Magic Union. They have something that no one else in the world has," said Mennon.

"Neon and Leagun won't be our guides here in France or in the UK. Both will leave us soon," said Griff.

"We are sad without them. But nothing could be done. We must move on," explained Miel.

"But don't despair. We shall meet a lot of interesting friends soon," said Selen.

"By tonight, we will finish a magic map of France and Britain for you. We want to give the map to you before we shall leave the group," said Neon.

"It was hard work. We've done the best we could," explained Leagun.

"Thank you very much, friends. We don't even know how to thank you. You've done so much for us," said Artborg.

"The *Attorand's Sword* and the *magic wand* will certainly help us in the war with the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. Although it seems to me that even these advantages aren't enough," said Kate.

"In this way we could help many people. We can't disappoint them all," said Kelly.

"While we were in Poland, we couldn't even think that someday we will get to France. And we are here, now," said Hezzord.

"Our journey to this country has only just begun. Soon, we'll get to the UK. We can't afford to be late," explained Mennon.

“The north of France was infiltrated by agents of the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements*. It’s also full of French inquisitors. I hope that Lille won’t suffer the same fate, before we arrive there,” said Griff.

“We can’t yet cross the border to the UK. We have to wait for the right moment,” said Miel.

“One after another, all the inquisitions revolt against wizards. It scares me even to think how it might end up,” said Selen.

“We will be still with you, while driving through this town. We’ve promised we will leave you in Paris. You’ll be safe there,” explained Neon.

“We’re at the outskirts of the city. We will soon be there,” noticed Leagun, while he looked around.

Soon they were already in the main square in Lille. In the meantime they all went to the city in search of adventure. So far, there were no inquisitors around. They felt a great relief.

“It seemed to me that Magic Poland, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium were not the same. There, our enemy agents were all over the place. I haven’t seen any magicians,” said Artborg.

“In the end, it turned out that our inquisitors betrayed us. And in these countries their inquisitors have betrayed them,” explained Kate.

“How nice is in this city. No one shoots at us. We can even rest a little bit,” said Kelly.

“We didn’t rest at all, since we left Arhir and Barhir. And at this point in time, we have little ammunition left,” said Hezzord.

“Our cars were hit, and are in need of repairs. If we continue to be attacked, I don’t know how we’re going to reach our destination,” said Mennon.

“This is the house where has lived Charles de Gaulle, the former French freedom fighter, who after the World War II became the president of France,” said Griff.

“We should better to go to the Museum of Fine Arts. This is also a great place in France,” explained Miel.

“This is the main attraction in this city. We should visit this museum,” agreed Selen.

“We aren’t happy to say goodbye to you, but we have to go,” said Neon.

“A big squad is too conspicuous. We know France. It could be worse for us here, than it was in Holland and in Belgium,” said Leagun.

“We will see each other again, as soon as we will all go back to Zondon,” said Artborg.

“One day, the war must end. Then, we will all be together to celebrate our victory,” said Kate, who could see happy times ahead.

“Once spring comes, the snow will thaw, and everything will change,” said Kelly.

“I also think that at this time of the year, nothing could be done,” said Hezzord.

“You drove us through the most difficult areas, which were infiltrated by the enemy inquisitors. And here we are now. We can take care of ourselves,” promised Mennon.

“We know that travelling through France and UK won’t bring you in harm’s way,” promised Griff.

“I think that the war will never end. First we had a war with the dead. Now we have a war with the Inquisition. No one knows what will happen,” said Miel.

“It would be nice if it will be all over. We could live a nice life, like we did before. It seems to me that we have no choice,” thought Selen.

“If only this war will be over quickly, and it won’t last for decades,” said Neon.

“Once we stood up against colossal forces. This is nothing compared to that,” said Leagun.

After visiting the Museum of Fine Arts in Lille, our friends continued their tour of the city.

“This is the second museum in France, after the Louvre in Paris,” said Artborg.

“I also liked it here. I’m glad we had fun,” said Kate.

“Such high numbers of art objects are not often seen anywhere,” said Kelly.

“If all the time, we had to do assignments like this, we would’ve been dead long time ago,” said Hezzord.

“We shall fight anyone who tries to stop us. We have to bring back the *Magic staff*, which is a powerful weapon,” said Mennon.

“This is a very difficult task. But we will handle it,” said Griff.

“And on top of that, we had exciting moments,” said Miel.

“For the first time in my life I’m on such an important mission. And I’m only twenty,” said Selen.

“We also liked the job. We don’t want to leave you,” said Neon.

“It’s a pity that we are no longer part of your squad. We were assigned to another mission,” said Leagun.

“We were pretty secure with you. We know you have to go,” said Artborg.

“Paris awaits for us. Ahead of us, there are lots of interesting stuff,” said Kate.

“Do you think that we can drive throughout France, and we won’t fall into an ambush?” asked Kelly.

“Tonight we will have to arrive in Paris. I think everything will be fine. But tomorrow morning we will drive on the road to the United Kingdom. Anything could happen,” said Hezzord.

“Tomorrow, it will be a warm day. When we arrive in Paris, we’ll have to rest for few hours, and stretch our bodies from such a long drive,” said Mennon.

“As long as we stay in Paris I can feel safe. The French army have foiled plans of our enemy agents. They won’t tolerate foreign agents working on their soil,” said Griff.

“Lille is a border town, close to Belgium. It could be infiltrated at any time. But Paris can’t be infiltrated,” continued Miel.

“Many countries don’t have enough manpower to stop our enemy agents infiltrate on their soil. And this is the whole hitch,” said Selen.

“That’s it. We ought to get out of this town, and find new adventures,” said Neon.

“Only Neon and I will soon wear our Sunday best. We will back to Zondon and serve Queen Abellin. We like that job,” said Leagun.

Our friends left Lille. They drove on the main road to Paris.

“It’s good that we left Lille. We should drive as further as we can,” said Artborg.

“We’ll halt in Paris. It’s one of the most famous cities in the world,” said Kate.

“It’s unlikely that we could get smoothly to the UK, when there are inquisitors everywhere,” said Kelly.

“You’re talking about the UK, and we didn’t even leave France. There are waiting for us new and interesting quests,” said Hezzord.

“This is also an interesting chapter in our lives, and one of the most important,” said Mennon.

“Personally, I doubt that France would go the *magic way*, in this confrontation with our enemies,” said Griff.

“The fact that our enemies were able to gain a foothold in the north of this country, wasn’t fully explained,” said Miel.

“In the very near future, troops of the *Joint European Magic Army* will come to the aid of the *French Inquisition* in their confrontation with the *Order of the Inquisition*, and the *Order of the Elements*. We might witness this great event,” said Selen.

“I forgot to tell you. Certain countries have already been infiltrated. I think that for the troops of the *Joint European Magic Army* is not nice, to see their territory being infiltrated by our enemy agents,” said Neon.

“The *European Magic Union* is a good ally for us. But now they don’t know what to do in this situation,” said Leagun.

“Which country do you think will be infiltrated first: France or Britain?” Artborg asked a question.

“France may be partially infiltrated. But UK won’t be, because they are on an island,” explained Kate.

“Personally I am more interested how we’re going to cope with the long journey to the UK,” Kelly changed the subject.

“Or enemies know that we are on the way to UK. They’ll activate the alarm, and their agent might spot us. It will make our task harder,” said Hezzord.

“If we have a good rest tonight, we hope that tomorrow we can manage,” Mennon said.

“Neon and Leagun left their map to us. We also have the notebook of Arhir and Barhir. All these will help,” said Griff.

“Each of us is part of this squad. We must stick together,” said Selen.

“That’s it. It’s time we leave you. But we will meet again in Zondon,” said Neon.

“We did our job. Now we should go home. From here on, you have to rely on each other,” summed up Leagun.

Saying goodbye to their friends, Neon and Leagun left. Their squad were left with only eight people. Meanwhile, they drove to Paris, the French capital. They were so excited about going there.

“It was so hard to say goodbye to Neon and Leagun, wasn’t it,” said Artborg.

“I was about to cry. They’ve done so much for us. They’ve been with us on the road for quite some time,” said Kate.

“Who has any suggestions? Where should we go while in Paris?” asked Kelly.
“There are so many things to see in Paris, that even two weeks aren’t enough,” said Hezzord.

“I think the best place to go to is the Eiffel Tower. After that we should go to the Louvre. Then we decide what we do,” said Mennon.

“The *Louvre* is so huge, that it would take us a long time to see it all,” said Griff.

“Look, it’s the Eiffel Tower,” said Miel.

“Then we should visit the *Champs Elysees*, the *Arc-de-Triomphe*, *Notre Dame*, *Bastille*, the *Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées*, and *Sainte-Chapelle*,” said Selen.

“This tower was built in the late nineteenth century. It still remains the main tourist attraction in Paris,” said Artborg.

“And for forty years it was the tallest building in the world. It’s twice as high as the pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, built thousands of years ago,” added Kate.

“And this tower is not located in the heart of Paris. It’s at the west of the city,” said Kelly.

“We must hurry, if we want to visit the many attractions in this city,” said Hezzord.

After they saw the city from the height of the *Eiffel Tower*, our friends continued their trip through Paris. This time they went to the *Louvre*, which was already visible in the distance.

“And here's the Louvre. Don’t you think it’s beautiful?” said Mennon.

“It's so nice that we're already in Paris. And it's very good,” said Griff. He finally breathed a sigh of relief.

“Let's go inside. We are wizards. If you want me to, I could even send everyone to sleep,” has offered Miel.

“Come on, this is all I want. Anyway, we will have to spend the night in this city,” said Selen.

“Maybe we could stay in this city a little longer,” Artborg talked to himself.

“Zondon is wonderful, but we can go back there later,” explained Kate.

“Or you can stay here. But in that case, we go back without you,” said Kelly.

“After the second war with the dead, Kate and Kelly have left Zondon for many years. Only recently they moved back to Zondon,” recalled Hezzord.

“They lived in many cities around the world, including Paris. Our city has changed beyond recognition in the last decade. Many have returned to live in it,” continued Mennon.

“Zondon is fine. And it has a great future,” said Griff.

“I’ve heard so many nice things about Zondon, and I fell in love with it,” said Miel.

“And here we are at the Louvre. I invite you all to go and visit it,” said Kelly.

For several hours, our heroes were gone inside the Louvre Museum. Few hours later, they came back at the exit. When they left the place they were really impressed. The museum was an eye opener. Next on their visiting agenda were the *Arc-de-Triomphe* and the *Champs Elysees*

“I propose we change our tour schedule. Let’s go and see Paris until tonight,” suggested Artborg.

“Relax, the day has just begun. We have plenty time. All is fine,” said Kate.

“It’s true. The Louvre was beautiful. I had so many emotions since I been there,” said Kelly.

“We should go and visit more places. Soon all the museums will close for the day. In Paris, one could have fun all night,” said Selen.

“This is a good idea. After all, we have all day ahead of us,” said Hezzord.

“Let’s visit *Sainte-Chapelle* and *Notre Dame*,” said Griff.

“As well as *Grand Opera*; it’s the largest French opera and ballet theatre built in the Royal era,” said Miel.

“And yet, I think, will be best to visit the Grand Opera, at the very end, when the spectators are stirring with their ovation,” said Kate.

“So we have agreed. Let’s go to *Sainte-Chapelle* and *Notre Dame Cathedral*. We postpone until later the visit to the *Arc-de-Triomphe* and the *Champs Elysees*,” approved Artborg.

“Who can tell us something new about these two sites?” said Kelly.

“We don’t need to say anything. We shall see them with our own eyes,” said Miel.

“It’s great that there isn’t a single inquisitor trying to stop us,” said Selen.

After visiting the *Sainte-Chapelle*, our friends left their cars and they started walking to the *Cathedral of Our Lady of Paris*. It wasn’t far from where they were.

“And here is the cathedral. Look how magnificent it is. Please take some photographs with me standing next to it,” said Kate.

“The Protestants live mostly in Northern Europe. The Catholics live in the south. The Orthodox Christians live in the Eastern Europe. But Catholicism dominates France.

And Catholics differ from the Protestants,” said Kelly.

After visiting the cathedral our friends walked back to their cars. They drove to the west towards the *Arc-de-Triomphe* and the *Champs Elysees*.

“I like to travel. Even in my horoscope it says that this suits me,” said Artborg.

“So we can spend a whole day in Paris. It’s a pity that we can’t stay longer,” said Kate.

“There are many magic attractions in Paris. For example the *French Magic Castle*; the *French Inquisition*; their home church; and various magic monuments,” explained Kelly.

“Remember in Holland we saw their main magic castle? It proved once again that it’s not an exact copy of his magic version,” Hezzord reminded them.

“Here in France we will meet the *French magic troops*. Everything waits ahead,” said Mennon.

“It’s unlikely that we won’t see something interesting,” promised Griff.

Our friends’ cars circled around the *Arc-de-Triomphe*, and then drove to the *Champs Elysees*, which was nearby.

“Our trip to this city is in full swing. Today we will see lots more,” said Artborg.

“Inquisitors throughout the world violate human rights and this must be stopped,” said Kelly.

“Not many inquisitors mean well. They don’t like change,” agreed Hezzord.

“From all the representatives of the *Order of Elements*, only one deputy, wanted to live on good terms with other orders. And that representative is still in power,” said Mennon.

“We are sure, that sooner or later, all the dictators will be toppled,” said Griff.

“People don’t want to be oppressed any more. The world needs change,” said Miel.

“The world has changed, and it will change. It’s certain,” said Selen.

Our heroes stopped the cars again. They all went for a walk on the *Champs-Elysees*, to unwind a little.

“Today we have a good day,” said Artborg, while he walked ahead.

“But tomorrow it will be a hard day. We should go and have some rest,” said Kate.

“The world changes all the time, even as we speak. It changes people’s perceptions,” said Kelly.

“The inquisitors also know this truism, that nothing lasts forever,” said Hezzord.

“Look at this glorious day. I invite you all to stick together,” said Mennon.

“We are on a mission. Our main aim is to deliver the *magic wand* to Zondon. Everything else is not important right now,” said Griff.

“Only for this reason we have exposed ourselves to perils, and we’ve travelled through all these countries. We can’t have other objectives,” explained Miel.

“How wonderful it is, that we’re already in Paris. This means that the end of our journey is around the corner,” said Selen.

Suddenly it was getting dark, and our friends left that place. They continued their night tour of Paris.

“It was a lovely morning. The afternoon was also nice. We have a lovely evening and a lovely night ahead of us,” said Artborg.

“The evening has just begun. We’re going to the theatre. Then we’ll walk through the night in Paris,” said Kate.

“Now we are at *Bastille*. It’s an important historical site in France,” said Kelly.

“Once upon a time, this place was a fortress prison. And it was completely destroyed. Now in its place is only one memorable column,” said Miel.

“The first revolution was in France. It left its mark on the further development of this country,” said Selen.

“Look how most of the European countries have united,” said Griff.

“Only few countries which become free, can improve their wellbeing. It’s true,” said Artborg.

“I like living in a big country. I believe that everyone should live in peace and harmony,” said Kate.

“Why are there more than two hundred independent countries? There should be one country on every continent,” said Kelly.

“Well that will happen when the world will unite,” said Miel.

“The most important thing is that most people want that to happen. And their will can’t be ignored,” said Griff.

“Even the most powerful state can’t solve all problems,” said Selen.

“A few leading countries won’t be able to fully influence the whole world,” said Miel.

After watching an evening performance at the *Grand Opera House* our friends decided to go to their hotel. They needed to rest before the upcoming battle. But they couldn’t refuse to drive at night through Paris.

“It gets dark early at this time of the year. Any city looks alluring at night,” explained Artborg.

“Soon we’ll arrive at the hotel where we stay. And in the morning we will be on the road again, going straight to the UK,” said Griff.

“I hope that the current situation in the north of France will hold. We don’t want to see our enemy agents pop up in front of us,” said Selen.

“I think that our plans won’t change any more. Tomorrow we’ll be in the United Kingdom,” said Kelly.

“Nothing has changed. I could be that we might have to go first to America, and go to England from there,” said Kate.

“What we know, is that until now, our enemy agents have infiltrated the northern part of France. They don’t want to let us pass trough. I don’t think that the situation will change soon,” said Kelly.

“When we bring the *magic wand* on our way back, will have to pass through these countries once more,” said Griff.

“My grandmother was born in this country. I’m proud of this fact. Remember that I’ve told you about this?” said Mennon.

“This war will be over sooner or later. Everything will be different. Magicians and inquisitors should be amalgamated,” said Miel.

Our friends had finally arrived at their luxury hotel. They were going to spend the night there.

* * *

A few hours later, our heroes were awakened by the loud sound of machine guns firing through their windows.

As it turned out, their enemy agents have decided to attack them while in Paris. So our friends had to quickly leave this place until it wasn’t too late.

“The inquisitors, our enemies, are already here,” said Artborg. He jumped out of bed and got his clothes while he run.

“That’s it. I’m afraid that tonight we won’t be able to sleep,” said Hezzord.

“We need to leave this place as quickly as possible. If not, it will be bad for us,” said Mennon. He opened a window in an adjoining room. He threw a grenade, which exploded outside.

“Our cars are parked in the hotel’s courtyard. It seems to me that there are no enemy agents there,” said Kate.

“Arhir and Barhir wrote about this in our journey’s forecast,” explained Kelly.

“Good news. We are ready to go into combat,” said Griff.

“The map that Neon and Leagun have left for us is helpful. If we don’t hurry, we won’t get out of here,” said Miel.

“Don’t follow me. I’m lost too,” said Selen.

Meanwhile, friends were going down the stairs. Bright flames were burning all around them. But they didn’t see any enemy agents.

“Why didn’t you look in Arhir and Barhir’s daily forecast, before you went to bed? We should’ve taken it more seriously. Now we are in danger because we didn’t,” said Kate.

“Once you got the forecast book in your hands, you should look into it regularly. It’s a very precious thing. We should use it from now on,” said Hezzord.

“No one of us has taken it too seriously. We now pay the consequences,” said Mennon.

“We had a great day yesterday, when we strolled around Paris,” said Kate.

“Yesterday we were also with Neon and Leagun. We said goodbye to them,” said Kelly.

“Without them, how do we know where we’re going? We need them to guide us to our destination,” said Griff. He then noticed an enemy agent coming from a corner.

“Our enemy agents are already here. And it’s very bad,” said Miel. He grabbed his weapon and he shot the enemy agent.

“We can’t get out,” said Selen. He stepped forward, leading the others.

“Our friends were already in the hall on the first floor. They gathered strength before they could leave.

“We are on the left hand-side of this building. Our cars are parked at the back of the building, not near the main entrance,” Artborg reminded them.

“Unfortunately, we were late when we’ve parked our cars. Now there are also enemy agents,” Hezzord sighed.

“So far, they aren’t too many. If we deal with this properly, then we will succeed,” said Mennon.

“If we act sensibly, all will turn out in our favour,” said Kate.

“Give me one minute. My head is spinning from all this,” said Kelly.

“Be careful! Someone jumps at us from the upper floor,” shouted Griff. An enemy agent jumped from the floor above. Fortunately for them, the agent broke his ankle.

“Let’s get out of here. This place is no longer safe,” said Miel.

“You do what you like. I don’t intend to stay here a minute longer,” said Selen.

As soon as our heroes walked at the back of the building, our enemy agents started with gunfire.

“Here we go again. Even in Paris we can’t keep away from gunfire,” said Artborg.

“I never thought that in this romantic city, this might happen to us,” said Hezzord.

“We are now fighting with our enemy agents,” said Mennon. He returned fire, getting rid of few agents.

“Help us! We came under fire,” came the voice of Kate, hidden behind a fallen pole.

“It seems to me, that these enemy agents shoot only at us,” said Kelly.

“Tell them to shoot at me,” said Griff.

“I hope we could hold our positions, until the French army will come to our rescue,” said Miel.

“French magic forces continue to offer assistance to this city. I hope they will come,” said Selen.

After the shooting stopped, our friends went back to their cars. They drove away, while discussing a new plan.

“Enemy agents are everywhere. We would be lucky if we could get out of here alive,” said Artborg.

“Their troops occupy the entire centre of Paris. We don’t get out of here if we don’t come up with a brilliant plan.

“They’re so many and they are everywhere. The French magic troops didn’t even hear, because they left the place,” said Kelly.

“I suggest we don’t lose any more time. Let’s leave this place as quickly as possible,” said Kate.

“It’s a great idea. The sooner we leave, the better it is,” said Miel.

“We have very few weapons. We got some more from the fallen enemy agents. Until we’ll reach Brittain we have no extra weapons,” said Griff.

“If we don’t meet with the French magic troops to get some extra supplies, until we reach the UK we just have no more weapons to fight in case they attack us again,” said Miel.

“Don’t worry. Everything will be fine. We’ll get to our destination,” said Griff. At last everything was ready. Our friends left the hotel. They drove through the closed gates. But their enemy agents saw them, and a chase ensued right away.

“Even at this hour of the night, we can’t have some rest. They’ve ambushed us. And now they follow in pursuit,” Artborg sighed.

“Our enemies shoot to kill. They don’t intend to miss us. They are determined not to let us finish our assignment,” said Griff.

“If we could get to the UK in the next few hours, then they won’t get the chance to stop us. They know it very well,” said Kate.

“It wouldn’t hurt if we lower the number of enemy agents. It seems that no one else is good at this, except us,” said Kelly.

Our friends managed to dodge the bullets, despite the fact that the pursuit went on.

“We are under constant gunfire. We might be lured straight into a trap,” said Artborg.

“I don’t like this. I’ve never thought that this could happen to us,” said Hezzord.

“You better drive faster. No one blocks our way,” said Mennon.

“See if the French army comes to our rescue. If they don’t, then we have to deal with this peril in the best way we can,” said Kate.

“It seems that their soldiers left this place. They fight in the other side of the city,” said Kate.

“This wasn’t in our plans. Why do we have to suffer in this way?” uttered Griff.

“We only have eight people in our squad. Our enemy agents have many more people. So if we get ambushed, we can hardly get out of it,” said Miel.

“We will get out alive, only by a miracle,” said Selen.

Our friends had to stop not far from the hotel. The road was closed from all directions. Their enemy agents laid a new trap for them.

“Well, we ran into trouble once again,” said Artborg. He joined the battle right away.

“What should we do next? How do we get out of here?” said Hezzord. He came to the aid of his friends.

“I don’t like this. Our enemy agents have caught us into this trap. I wonder who is behind all this?” said Mennon.

“I think that soon we will find the answer to your question,” said Kate.

“If we want to leave this place alive, we need to fight hard. I’m afraid that without help we won’t get out from this ambush,” said Kelly.

“They chose this place not us. That’s way they have the upper hand,” said Griff.

“It’s unlikely that we can survive here more than half an hour. We’ll be riddled with bullets,” said Miel.

Our heroes were in a very difficult ambush. Lots of enemy agents shot at them. And they didn’t know what to do next.

“Our lives are in the balance here. If we don’t get help soon, we will die,” said Artborg.

“They’ve cut our way. We have nowhere to retreat. We can’t get out of this ambush,” said Hezzord.

“We are surrounded on all sides. We can’t get far,” said Mennon.

“Then we’d better ask them to take us prisoners,” said Kate.

“That’s a good idea. At least we can get out of here alive,” said Kelly.

“Not everyone wants to give up. And on top of that, we are almost there,” said Griff.

“We can’t give up now. Our mission would be compromised. Zondon won’t get the *magic wand*. All our efforts until now, would have been in vain,” said Miel.

“We have travelled so far away. I don’t intend to die here in Paris, before could deliver the *magic wand*,” said Selen.

Their enemy agents continued to get closer to our heroes. Every moment they were tightening the grip.

“If we won’t get help in the next moments, we will fail this mission,” said Artborg.

“Where is the French army? Arhir and Barhir predicted that we will meet them in this city,” said Kate.

“They are outside the city. If they won’t come soon, we’ll have to get out of this ambush using our means,” said Mennon.

“But we really need their help. We will not get out of here. We only have eight people,” said Kelly.

“What if they don’t come in time to help us? What shall we do then?” said Kate.

“They know that we are here. They’ll rush to our aid. If we could hold out a little longer, we’ll make it,” said Griff.

“Our enemy has sent here half-trained agents. And we still can’t get out of this ambush,” said Selen.

“They must’ve infiltrated a large area. We have to try everything we have at our disposal,” said Griff.

“I can’t stand this any more. I can’t work at this pace,” said Artborg. He continued to fire from his automatic weapon.

“We drove five hundred meters away from the hotel. We got into such an ambush. And now we don’t even know how to get out of it,” said Kate.

“Our enemy agents didn’t even let us sleep. It means that tomorrow we won’t sleep at all,” said Kelly.

“It seems that London is not just a stone's throw away. Our enemy agents won’t let us get there in pace,” said Miel.

“It’s not physically possible. We are opposed to a whole platoon. We should be happy that are still alive,” said Selen.

“We will leave this place only if a miracle happens. If not there is no way we could escape,” said Griff.

“How could we fall into such ambush? We should’ve been more careful,” said Miel.

“If we were wiser, nothing of this would have happened. We would be in the British Isles,” said Kate.

“Stop thinking that we failed this mission,” said Artborg.

“We would be very lucky if they won’t kill us. Our chances are slim, after such a fierce resistance,” said Kelly.

“Stop wailing. Let’s step up our strength of mind, and get out of this hassle,” said Mennon.

“I don’t intend to give up. I’ll keep fighting, despite the sweat,” said Selen.

“Don’t forget that there are eight of us. And we don’t give up,” said Artborg.

“We shall fight with what we have. We shall keep fighting no matter what,” said Mennon.

“Where is this French magic army? Why are they so late to help us,” said Miel.

“And here they come,” said Artborg.

Not far from where they were, they heard voices amplified by loud speakers, telling their enemy agents to surrender. When they refused, a fierce battle ensued.

“I feel better now, thanks to the French,” said Artborg.

“Arhir and Barhir have predicted this. And they were right,” said Hezzord.

“Their troops haven’t failed us this time. They come to our rescue,” said Mennon.

“It seems they are so many French magic soldiers,” said Kate.

“In my opinion, there are even more. They all came to our aid,” said Kelly.

Soon the resistance of their enemy agents has collapsed. The French magic military, have surrounded them from all sides. The French officer in charge, Pierre, with his wife Isabelle, came out from an armoured vehicle.

“*Merci, mon ami,*” said Kate in French, thanking Pierre for his help.

“We had no idea that our enemy agents will ambush us in Paris. Luckily you’ve foiled their plans,” said Miel, while talking to Pierre.

“Yesterday morning, we were in Lille. It was all quiet,” added Selen.

“We are so pleased that we’ve met. We will certainly help you, to get to the British Isles,” promised Pierre.

“Lille was infiltrated by your enemy agents just after you’ve left. They made a mess. Well, at least we could help you here in Paris. Don’t worry, as long as you are with us, you won’t be in danger,” said Isabelle.

“We would be safe indeed, if you would take us to the border,” said Mennon.

“This is at least that we can do for you,” said Pierre.

“Our help for you was requested from the highest level,” said Isabelle.

“This is great news. It’s good that our countries share common interests,” said Kate.

“The world has changed after the last war has ended,” said Kelly.

“We can see what your cars are in a poor condition. You should allow us to repair them. In this way, you could successfully reach your goal,” said Pierre.

“And we’re going to supply you. You have already run out of weapons and ammunition,” said Isabelle.

“Thank you. This is a great help for us. If you ever need our help, we will certainly help you,” promised Griff.

“It’s so nice that we meet you. We have begun to think, that we would never get out of this ambush,” continued Selen.

“Please, come with us. We will give you a lift. Your cars will be ready in no time,” said Pierre.

“Yes. Please, everyone take a seat,” said Isabelle.

Our friends had followed Pierre and Isabelle, and they each taken a seat on the French armoured bus with the commander.

“Thank you very much. You are so generous with us,” said Artborg.

“You have already done so much for us saving our lives. We don’t know how to thank you. Thank you very much for everything you’ve done for us,” said Hezzord.

“We only did our job,” said Pierre.

“Don’t be shy. Please, everyone take a seat,” said Isabelle.

“On this particular mission, we’ve met such nice people. Thank you,” said Kate.

“If we didn’t have this job to do, then Griff, Miel and Selen would have been strangers to us. The three of them complement our squad so well. If we had not met Arhir and Barhir in Poland, we would have missed on their revealing predictions. If Neon and Leagun wouldn’t have come to guide us through Holland and Belgium we wouldn’t have known how good friends they really are. It seems that it was our destiny to meet all these people, including you here in Paris,” explained Kelly.

“If you aren’t so tired, we’re going to show you the magic of Paris,” said Pierre.

“But first we want to know you better, and become friends,” said Isabelle.

“We were ambushed many times since we’ve left Zondon,” said Miel.

“They ambushed us in every country we’ve travelled,” said Selen.

“We are well aware of your troubles,” said Pierre.

“We sent some reinforcements, to help fight your enemy agents in Poland,” admitted Isabelle.

“Our enemies have infiltrated France. The United Kingdom is on the waiting list,” said Artborg.

“Today, you were able to size them here in Paris. But the fight won’t be over so soon,” Hezzord said.

“We are doing everything in our power to protect our country,” said Pierre.

“We are getting reinforcements from our *Foreign Legion*. They are on their way, and soon will be in France,” admitted Isabelle.

“We wish you good luck in the fight against our enemy agents,” said Kate.

“We will succeed only if we pool all our forces,” murmured Kelly.

“You are influential people in Zondon. We are proud to have met you,” said Pierre.

“We did two good things at the same time. We saved you, and Paris,” said Isabelle.

“Zondon has always been friendly to France and Britain,” said Miel.

“I wish you and Zondon all the best,” summed up Isabelle.

“Personally, I like it here in Paris. I would like to stay here for a while,” said Artborg.

“Kate and Kelly have even lived here for few years after the second war with the dead. They know Paris well,” said Hezzord.

“That is why they speak French so good,” said Mennon.

“We are going to show you some things you don’t know,” said Pierre.

“Your trip to Paris is not yet over,” said Isabelle.

“It must be very interesting. We haven’t seen the Magic Paris,” smiled Kate.

“Kate and I, know all about it,” said Kelly.

“Then you will be helping us with this tour,” said Pierre.

“Look at this monument for the French wizards who fought in the old days. There are bronze sculptures honouring the former generations,” said Isabelle.

“What I like about Paris, is its historic past,” said Griff.

“What about the day by day life? It’s lovely,” said Miel.

“I see the Eiffel Tower again. But for some reason, its top sways from side to side, like a pendulum,” said Selen.

“That’s because you are tired. And we drove over a bump in the road,” has explained Pierre.

“I hope that we enjoy being with us. We could show you some more magical attractions,” said Isabelle.

Meanwhile, our heroes from Zondon, Pierre and Isabelle, as well as the magic army drove past the main French magic castle in Paris.

“I never thought that this castle is so big. I can’t see where it ends,” said Artborg.

“And why is your castle painted red? Is this colour popular here?” asked Hezzord.

“Are you kidding me? Red colour is very popular and well liked here,” said Mennon.

“I see a statue of a bearded hero riding on a horse, with a sceptre in his hands,” said Selen.

“This is a good king, who ruled France many centuries ago,” explained Isabelle.

“Look to the right, we are coming to the French magic museum,” said Pierre.

“This two-story white building with columns and statues is a French Museum of Magic. It has the best collection of magic. We will visit it some other time,” said Isabelle.

“You have revealed to us so many things about your country. It's great,” said Griff.

“If we weren't on the job, we would definitely stay longer. We shall come back to Paris some other time,” promised Miel.

“Very soon will come the day when the war will end,” said Selen.

“Look at the magic *Moulin Rouge*. It's a charming place,” admitted Pierre.

“Pierre likes going to these shows. He also likes to talk about them,” said Miel.

Soon our heroes were destined to see the main castle of the French Inquisition. It's quite different from the French magic castle, and it catches the eye, because there was a war between magicians and inquisitors.

“All of the Inquisitions are on friendly terms with each other, and ready to agree with each other,” said Artborg.

“And after their amalgamation, they went to attack. They unleashed new warrior wizards,” added Hezzord.

“Our country is gripped into civil war. And this has spilled into other countries. It claims more and more lives every day,” said Mennon.

“Not all of the inquisitions and bad wizards are at war with each other,” said Pierre.

“We also have an Inquisition, which refuses to fight on the evil side. But there are magicians who are fighting desperately alongside your enemy,” confessed Isabelle.

“Most of the inquisitions which came to power were full of deceitful people. They've declared war on us,” said Kate.

“Our mission will never end, while the evil lives on,” said Kelly.

“We are all fighting on the side of the upright. We are proud of this. It's our calling,” said Pierre.

“So we're trying to help all those who need help,” said Isabella.

“We must move on. Tomorrow we have to be in the UK,” said Griff.

“This is good. Selen was born in this country,” said Miel.

“I believe that we'll find our way through the UK,” said Selen.

“Your enemy agents haven't given you any respite. But don't worry, our people will make sure you won't be attacked again while in France,” said Pierre.

“You can take a nap here, in our special bus,” said Isabelle.

Our heroes climbed the spiral staircase to the second floor of the bus, and soon they found themselves near their bedrooms.

“In this bus is just like at home. There are even separate rooms for guests,” said Artborg.

“I don't know about you, but I feel safe here,” said Hezzord. He looked around watching the reactions of the others.

“This double-decker bus, suits our lifestyle,” said Pierre.

“We have good jobs. We live on the move,” said Isabelle.

“I love your bus,” said Kate.

“Thank you so much for the warm hospitality,” said Kelly.
“You can sleep until this afternoon,” said Pierre.
“Your mission for today is over. But we will take you to the border with the UK,” said Isabelle.
“Don’t worry about us. Everything will be okay,” said Griff.
“We will get what we want,” said Miel.
“The world will be united once and for all. It will happen one day,” said Selen.
“We do everything we can,” said Pierre.
“We don’t want to disturb you. You should rest,” said Isabelle.
Our heroes looked tired. Few hours ago they fought for their lives. They soon fell asleep.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Vladivostok

Galita, Ditta and Gamma had just arrived at Zondon’s Headquarters in Vladivostok. They continued to prepare for the upcoming assault on the castle of the *Order of the Air* in the same city. They wanted to get a foothold at any cost. It would determine the fate of people who lived there.

“I hope you're ready for the upcoming battle,” Galita asked her friends.

“Everything is ready for the upcoming assault on the castle of the *Order of the Air*. We are ready to attack at any moment,” said Ditta with confidence in her voice.

“Once you’ve ordered our troops to storm the castle, it can’t withstand our onslaught,” said Gamma.

“We have high hopes because we know our army,” said Galita.

“We’ll take this castle, despite the fact that the *Order of the Air* gets help from *East Inquisition*,” said Ditta.

“We have everything we need to win this battle,” said Gamma.

Dmitry and Lissa also agreed with them. The two of them have lost the last battle, despite de fact that they had the Attorand’ Sword with them

“Dmitry doesn’t listen to advice. He takes decisions as he sees fit. I think they deserved to lose the last battle, because they were overconfident,” said Galita.

“We don’t like their approach. We are ready to listen. We never show off,” said Ditta.

“Dmitry is a star. He belongs to the very influential and wealthy group, in the *wizard world*,” said Gamma.

“If he had won that battle, he would have been praised for a very long time. But no matter what we do, no one hardly mentions about us,” said Ditta.

“In contrast to Dmitry, we can’t charm the public,” said Gamma.

“Queen Abellin, Tuibe, Dmitry, Artborg, Mennon, Nokkuf and Nobb, these are the real heroes. No one seems to know us. We worked all our lives for the glory of Zondon. But no one cares,” said Galita.

“Every day we run the risk of losing our lives. Does anyone care?” said Ditta.

“Our own leaders will be remembered forever. No one will ever forget them. They give the orders. We only follow them,” said Gamma.

In the meantime, Galita, Ditta and Gamma paced around the Zondon’s headquarters in Vladivostok. It was time for them to leave.

“We must not hang around here for too long. We have to obey orders,” said Galita.

“Our government has invested huge amounts of money in this battle. We should be proud that we command this army,” said Ditta.

“Do you think that Dmitry will be blamed for the fact that he lost the last battle?” asked Gamma.

“Of course not. They will blame anyone else, except Dmitry. But God save us all, if we are defeated,” said Gamma.

“Queen Abellin, Tuibe, Dmitry, Artborg, Mennon, Nokkuf and Nobb, have lots of money and belong to the upper-class. They can do whatever they want. Nothing will happen to them. But with us there is different matter,” said Galita.

“When we were students, no one knew that Dmitry was chosen, except for a handful of people. Everything was different then. Queen Abellin could not kill Dmitry, when he was still a student, because she would’ve been hit by a terrible curse,” said Gamma.

“He had a tremendous career growth. We are still at the bottom. He doesn’t want to talk to us,” said Ditta.

“Dmitry forgot his old friends. He started a new life,” said Galita.

“Neon and Leagun don’t have a high status as Dmitry has. Every day they risk their lives for the sake of Queen Abellin. Nevertheless, despite the fact that Artborg and Mennon are extremely rich, they don’t boast about it. They work like everyone else,” said Gamma.

“While we fought the *Order of Fire*, Neon and the Leagun helped Artborg, Kathy, Kelly, Hezzord, Mennon, Griff, Miel and Selen in Holland and Belgium,” said Galita.

“Now the famous squad is in France. They drive to the UK to bring from there the *magic wand*. But Neon and Leagun is not with them any more,” sighed Ditta.

“It’s a hard task indeed. But it doesn’t mean that we do a lesser job here in the east,” said Ditta.

“As soon as they’ll come back to Zondon, they’ll be praised. They’ll also be showered with money,” said Galita.

“Zondon doesn’t pay everyone the same. Some are showered with gold. But what about us?” said Ditta.

“In fact, Queen Abellin didn’t even want to come to Vladivostok. She sent us here. This fact should open our eyes,” said Gamma.

“She is the Queen. She has better things to do, rather than be dragged into such a wilderness,” said Ditta.

“We love to stay in Zondon so much, and she had sent us here,” said Galita.

“Because we follow orders, and we do our job properly, we are in high demand,” said Gamma.

“Everyone knows that we are ready to bring victory on a silver plate,” said Ditta. “Should we win here in Vladivostok, Queen Abellin’s name will be pronounced even louder,” said Galita.

“This is how our world is. I am afraid that we won’t be able to change it,” said Gamma.

Soon, *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* troops were already in the new light-blue castle of the *Order of the Air*. It was decorated with ornaments. After the three women stopped talking, they ordered to storm the castle.

“That’s now the abode of the *Order of the Air*. We’ll have to take it, though it won’t be easy,” said Galita.

“After we take this castle, we’ll find many victims,” explained Ditta.

“We are fighting against evil. But the good will triumph,” said Gamma.

“I have just ordered our troops to start storming the castle. But they find it hard to get to the front gate,” said Galita.

“Order our tanks to shell them. It will distract their attention,” said Ditta.

“Our helicopters have also met with resistance. If nothing is done, they’ll simply slaughter us,” warned Gamma.

“Then we urgently need to send them reinforcements,” said Galita.

“We have many helicopters. Our army is better prepared,” said Ditta.

“Next we’ll have to surround the castle from all sides,” said Gamma.

“The soldiers of the *Order of the Air* will understand who they are dealing with,” said Galita.

“Once we’ve softened the target, we can move in,” said Ditta.

“We have lots of armoured personnel carriers. We’ll order the attack right now,” said Galita.

“That’s right. The sooner we attack, the better,” said Ditta.

“Troops of the Order of the Air are shooting at our helicopters with heat seeking missiles,” said Gamma.

“Then order our soldiers to hit those targets at once,” said Galita.

“And here are our new troops. They march on the battlefield,” said Ditta.

“We are doing well. We’ll get this fortress,” promised Gamma.

Storming the castle continued. The very first *Zondon* soldiers began landing on the roof of the castle, taking up fighting positions.

“Well, I hope everyone is pleased with our success. After all, our soldiers are on the roof. Soon they’ll be inside the castle,” said Galita.

“It’s true. If everything goes well, this castle will fall very soon,” said Gamma.

“I have bad news. The *Order of the Air* has asked for support from the *East Inquisition*. In about one hour, or perhaps earlier, their troops would be here,” said Ditta.

“This is not the first time that we are in an awkward situation. Stop talking this nonsense. We will deal with them too,” said Galita.

“And I doubt that in one hour, we will take this castle completely, because there are so many floors. It has more floors than the castle of the *Order of Water* had,” said Gamma.

“On the other hand, we must go on with our onslaught. The *East Inquisition* attacks are always powerful. But we have enough men, and we’ll deal with them quickly,” said Ditta.

“We mustn’t send yet to battle our new soldiers. We must keep them in reserve for the time when the East Inquisition’s troops arrive,” said Galita.

“Trey is in command of the army of the *East Inquisition*,” said Ditta.

“But why Trey? He doesn’t even belong to this Order,” said Gamma.

“He’s the best commander in chief of all the rebel Inquisitions. He doesn’t have a single defeat,” explained Galita.

“Compared to him, we’re just ordinary soldiers. He is a man whom we all fear. Many troubles come only from him. And we are now fighting him. We’ll meet him face to face,” said Ditta.

“It’s not a bad thing to get rid of him once and for all. Then Zondon would receive us as heroines,” said Gamma.

“You don’t aim high enough. I would be happier if we’ve managed to capture the leader of the *Order of the Air*. That would be a real scoop for us,” said Ditta.

“I don’t know about you. But I will try to arrange an attempt on Trey,” said Galita.

“And I’ll help you with that. It’s worth it. Without Trey, the *West Inquisition* will side with Zondon. It’s better than to capture the leader of the *Order of the Air*,” said Gamma.

“It’s too risky. We could even lose our lives. Then our army will be defeated,” said Ditta.

“If after this assignment, we’ll get back home alive, we will become as popular as Queen Abellin or Dmitry, and become legends,” said Galita.

“Such a chance comes only once in one’s life. We have to use the moment. We have a good army. And we also have martial skill,” said Gamma.

The main gate of the castle of the *Order of the Air* finally fell to pieces. Zondon troops entered the castle. But they were soon stopped. A new ambush was laid for them.

“We must put an end to all this mess, once and for all,” said Galita.

“If father Trey perishes in this battle, this war won’t last long,” said Ditta.

“There have been many attempts to get rid of Trey, yet all were disastrous,” said Gamma.

“I believe that we must take that risk. If we don’t get rid of him, we will be sorry,” said Galita.

“What if our plan goes wrong? Then we can lose everything, even our lives,” said Ditta.

“And yet we must risk. It’s our style, and it’s worth it,” said Gamma.

“I feel it in my heart. Today will be a great day. I’m sure it will bring us glory,” said Ditta.

The three women friends had agreed to take action. There was no turning back. If they won’t succeed, father Trey would be the leader of the *West Inquisition* forever.

“Today, we can put an end to this war. We kill two birds with one stone,” said Ditta.

“All our troops are already in the castle of the *Order of the Air*,” said Galita.

“We’ll take the castle soon. And we are ahead of schedule,” said Gamma.

“The *East Inquisition*’s troops have arrived. We are ready to fight them,” said Ditta.

“At each castle’s floor, our troops meet with new resistance. But no matter what, we go on,” said Galita.

“Their strength doesn’t dwindle. What shall we do?” said Ditta.

“Let’s send in our reinforcements. Bring back the troops we’ve sent to fight the *East Inquisition*,” said Gamma.

“Why? Our soldiers are doing a good job. We don’t need extra soldiers,” said Galita.

“Better let the soldiers that are fighting now, have a little rest,” said Ditta.

“I don’t think that it’s the right time for rest,” said Gamma.

“Time is running fast. We will soon feel the wrath of the *East Inquisition*,” said Galita.

“This gives us motivation. When we do similar tasks, each moment drags like an eternity,” said Ditta.

“It’s because we are responsible for what happens on the battlefield,” said Gamma.

“We want Zondon’s troops to win this battle. We are trustworthy people,” said Galita.

“When the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* will join us, it will be the most powerful alliance,” said Ditta.

Zondon and Zondon Inquisition’s luck went up, and the troops of the *Order of the Air* had to bring more reinforcements.

“Yet it would be really cool if we could take this castle before the troops of *East Inquisition* will be here,” hinted Galita.

“Our troops are doing everything possible. And if we hurry, it will lead to an increase in the number of our soldiers being killed,” said Ditta.

“We shouldn’t sacrifice our troops. We will need them later,” said Gamma.

“After the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth* became Zondon’s and Zondon Inquisition’s allies, things improved a lot. Other orders might see this, and might want to join,” said Galita.

“However, a huge change is always bad. It can change everything,” said Ditta.

“And we don’t want big changes. The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* had a large economy. But even with that plus, the standard of living for the average man is not high,” said Gamma.

“The first floor of the castle had fallen into our hands. The fight continues on the second floor,” said Ditta.

“I also have good news. Our troops managed to occupy the entire roof of the castle,” said Galita.

“We have managed to split the army of the *Order of the Air* in two,” said Ditta.

“By the time the *East Inquisition*’s troops arrive, the castle will be in our hands,” said Gamma.

“We’ve done well. We can still achieve your goal, no matter how many enemies will rise against us. We know what we’re doing,” said Galita.

“This is not the first time we had to deal with an enemy,” said Gamma.

“If they didn’t trust us, they wouldn’t have sent us to fight this battle,” said Galita.

“We have defeated the *Order of Fire* before. I doubt that we will lose today,” explained Ditta.

“We could cope with these tasks even better than Dmitry and Lissa had,” said Gamma.

“Dmitry is a good magician. He knows magic well. But his arrogance had no limit,” said Galita.

“When he used to be more down to earth, and he had many victories,” said Ditta.

“But soon as he started looking down on people. He thought he is perfect. It’s no wonder that he lost the last battle,” explained Gamma.

The East Inquisition’s troops didn’t arrive. *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*’s troops continued to fight at the same pace. They’re doing well. It looked as if they were about to win.

“I didn’t doubt for a moment that our troop wouldn’t be victorious,” said Galita.

“We are ready for anything, no matter what army stands in our way in the future,” said Ditta.

“We have all we need, to ensure that today we will win. We will achieve this goal,” said Gamma.

“Our troops continue to storm the castle of the *Order of the Air* and we must succeed. We know what we’re doing. We never make mistakes,” said Galita.

“You started to think and talk like Dmitry,” said Ditta.

“Sometimes, Dmitry doesn’t know what to do. He has reliable people around him, like Artborg and Mennon. They’ll bring him back to reality,” said Galita.

“I would have turned a mountain, if I had Queen Abellin’s power,” said Ditta.

“Queen Abellin sits on her throne. She might be there forever, even after *Zondon* reunite with other magic people,” said Gamma.

“She was twenty when she became the Queen of *Zondon*. Fifteen years later she’s still on the throne,” said Galita.

“She got the power in difficult times. Then, the dead assailed the land. She won’t relinquish her power now,” said Ditta.

“Immediately after she became the Queen, she named Tuibe as her second-in-command. She was her best friend. Now Tuibe is the Queen’s companion,” said Gamma.

“On the other hand, they’ve achieved a lot. I am glad that we have such a queen. For example to raise *Zondon*’s economic power she had created *Zondon Inquisition*. It was a move to gain prestige in the international arena, and improve relations with foreign states. She also took the castles of the *Order of Fire* and the *Order of the Earth*. These are big achievements,” said Ditta.

“It's not only their merit. Anyone who worked for the benefit of Zondon deserves admiration. For example, without people like Artborg, Mennon, Nobby, Nokkuf, Ignatius and Gorr, they certainly would not have achieved much,” said Galita.

“We all remember a few years ago, when Dmitry won the election. But he abdicated in favour of Queen Abellin. He thought that just the ruler of Zondon, is a position not high enough for him. He cast his eye on the entire magic Russia,” said Gamma.

“I would like to see Dmitry at the head of our government. I like him more than Queen Abellin and Tuibe,” admitted Galita.

“He is the most popular man in the whole *wizard world*. He is more popular than Queen Abellin. Even on Google, people are searching for him more than for Queen Abellin,” said Ditta.

“Ordinary citizens trust Dmitry more than Queen Abellin or Tuibe. He will get to the top,” said Gamma.

“I think that the leaders of Zondon Inquisition will stay in power,” said Galita.

“Father Nobb has done well. He had created a new inquisition. Now he has everyone around his finger,” said Ditta.

“Nobb is worth a lot too. He made an enormous contribution to the existence of Zondon Inquisition. Before he was a simple priest, at a church in Zondon. Everyone confessed to him. He knew a lot of *classified information*,” said Gamma.

“Father Ignatius, who is the grandfather of Leagun is also important personality. And Gorr, who has taught us *history of magic*, he still teaches students at the Zondon Academy,” said Galita.

“Only rascal Abbot had retired,” said Gamma.

The moment came, when the troops of *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* have managed to take all the aboveground floors. Together they went to storm the dungeons of the castle of the *Order of the Air*, where the leaders of this Order were hidden.

“Bastard Abbot had a good side too. He was good businessman. Without his help, Zondon couldn't have improved its economy,” said Galita.

“No he didn't. We could hardly get rid of his monstrosities. Everybody knows who he really is,” said Ditta.

“But at that time, it was a completely different economic situation. We had no choice, because Zondon was weak then. It was at the time when Queen Abellin had just come to power,” said Gamma.

“What are you defending him for? Don't you know how much evil he has done to others? Many of the problems he created, haven't been resolved yet. Many innocent people are still in prison, because of him. And you still say that he helped Zondon,” said Ditta.

“On the other hand, if he hadn't helped Zondon, none of the good things would have taken place. We are still indebted to him,” said Galita.

“Today he is not as influential as he was ten years ago. Everyone knows it,” said Gamma.

“Nevertheless, he continues to live among us. We have to put up with the bad things he has done,” said Ditta.

“Don’t worry about him now. Let’s worry about this war against the Inquisitors,” said Galita.

“He is evil in the flesh. But let’s take for example father Trey. He is worse than Abbot. Today we are going to stand up against him,” said Gamma.

“Even if we have to sacrifice our lives to stop him, we are ready to do it,” said Galita.

“We won’t die. Zondon needs us,” said Ditta.

“With old Trey it’s a different matter. Sooner or later he would’ve died anyway. We have our lives in front of us,” said Gamma.

“It would be nice if Trey had just dropped dead,” said Galita.

“It’s a pity that he didn’t die long time ago. It would have saved us the trouble fighting him in this battle. Without him, the *West Inquisition* would be our ally,” said Ditta.

“Whatever is meant to happen, it would happen,” said Gamma.

“They don’t know that our troops had already won the first lower ground floor of the castle of the *Order of the Air*. They continue to move forward, unaware of our progress,” said Galita.

“I like to hear these latest news. After all, I am happier when I hear positive news,” said Ditta.

“Our troops are good. Under our command, they will take this fortress, without any problems,” said Gamma.

The *East Inquisition*’s troops under the command of Trey have finally arrived. Macbel and Shatsura were with them.

“Wow, what an army had the *East Inquisition* sent here,” said Galita.

“It’s even more than it seems at first glance. It’s under the command of three leaders. But they aren’t the commanders we thought,” explained Ditta.

“We know well all our enemies, except for Shatsura. We don’t know him well,” said Gamma.

“We should know our enemies more than a bit. We need to know their strategy, since we are at war with them,” said Galita.

“We don’t know what to expect from Shatsura. But we know Macbel well,” said Ditta.

“I only know who this Shatsura is, because I’ve read an article about him in the newspaper. This guy is thirty years old. He and Macbel are not so good strategists,” said Gamma.

“They serve the *Order of the Inquisition* from a sense of duty,” said Galita.

“Our troops only entered the fight, and are already trying to surround the army of the *East Inquisition*. I think you like this,” said Ditta.

“Trey is more of an influential figure than Fire. Now we have to deal with more troops from *East Inquisition*, instead of the troops of the *Order of the Air*,” said Gamma.

“More recently, there was a terrible event regarding the *Order of the Water* at Volgograd. It was at the same battle, where Dmitry and Lissa had lost. There, the *Order of the Inquisition* had declared war on us. That’s way we have two enemies now,” Galita reminded them.

“Officially, we are at war only with the *East Inquisition*. But I doubt that the *North Inquisition* will continue to stay out of this. They will help their allies,” said Ditta.

“The West and North Inquisitions have sent Trey, Macbel and Shatsura. This means that not everyone is going to listen to their orders,” has agreed Gamma.

“Trey was bored. That’s way he came to the aid of the *Order of the Air*,” said Galita.

“Many people would like to take his job. But they are not as good as him,” said Ditta.

“Despite the fact that the *East Inquisition* had sent many soldiers here, they are poorly trained. Our soldiers might be a bit tired but they fight well, “ said Gamma.

“We will beat father Trey. His army will collapse,” said Galita.

“We must be very careful. If we hunt down their leaders, their armies will surrender,” said Ditta. “They have three leaders. One of them will still survive.

Even without Trey, they will continue to resist, “ said Gamma.

“Well, this applies only to this battle. As soon as Trey dies, a coup will take place at the *West Inquisition*,” said Galita.

“I also agree that our main goal is to get rid of Trey. The rest is not important, not even taking the fortress of the *Order of the Air*,” said Ditta.

“After Trey’s death, the *West Inquisition* would become Zondon’s ally,” said Gamma.

“Zondon could achieve great things in alliance with the *West Inquisition*. Then we would have exactly what we wanted,” said Galita.

“A single union between Zondon, the Zondon Inquisition, the *Order of Fire*, *Order of the Earth* would have great power,” said Ditta.

“You’re right. Our troops are fighting so well. It’s a pleasure to watch them,” said Ditta.

“It’s unlikely that our troops will lose today, or that we will leave here empty-handed. I think that our enemies will fall,” said Galita.

“We have promising signs that will shall win,” said Ditta.

“Unlike Trey, Macbel and Shatsura aren’t the best commanders in the *wizard world*. I think they were sent here, just to acquire more experience, “ said Gamma. The armies of Zondon and *Zondon Inquisition* continued to hold their positions. The odds were on their side.

“The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* are nearly exhausted. I wonder how are they going to deal with Macbel and Shatsura, when they’ll try to join us,” asked Galita.

“People like them are everywhere. I doubt that they will be unemployed after the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* will be no more. These two are versed in the art of evildoing. Evil is not extinct,” explained Ditta.

“Macbel and Shatsura belong to a new generation of villains. Mark my words. They are capable of doing more evil than Abbot and Trey put together,” explained Gamma.

“Even if we try to stop them, we are unlikely to succeed, firstly because we are women, and it’s still plenty of bigotry out there. And secondly, Macbel and Shatsura aren’t old, as opposed to Trey,” said Galita.

“We can try to kill Macbel and Shatsura. But, others may take their place,” said Gamma.

“What do you think about the other inquisition? I want to discuss this topic, too,” said Ditta.

“We all hoped that *East Inquisition* will not fight us after such a warm visit from Queen Abellin. But they didn’t keep their word,” said Gamma.

“There wasn’t the case. Flurt, the leader of *East Inquisition* was against the decree that troops from the *Order of the Air* should be sent here. Everything was decided without his opinion,” said Galita.

“Among other things, Glurt the leader of the *North Inquisition*, together with Azar the leader of the *South Inquisition*, are not better than Trey. They will continue to plot against us,” said Ditta.

“If the leaders of the *Order of the Elements* survive, then the war will continue. Until then we have the upper hand,” said Galita.

“But our enemies will have to create a new *Order of the Earth* from scratch. It will take a lot of time and money,” said Ditta.

“The *Order of the Earth* will fight for us. Their old castle now belongs to us. And the new *Order of the Earth* will work for them. So we will be equal,” said Gamma.

“We are the strong side. If we unite with them, we shall be even stronger,” said Galita.

“Today is a good day for us. We should cash in our strength,” said Ditta.

“We are waiting for just two wins, and we will rectify the situation,” said Gamma.

“Zondon transformed the three of us into reliable people. We are grateful for it,” said Galita.

“If we are able to gain a foothold here, it will be easier to control the situation,” said Ditta.

“And now we are making a great contribution not only to *Zondon*’s future, but to the entire *wizard world*,” said Gamma.

The advantage has continued to remain on the *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition*’ side. Their troops continued to advance into the castle and beyond.

“The East Inquisition had rebelled once against us before. It still couldn’t resist rebelling again. But soon it will be a change of power,” promised Galita.

“I think that Zondon will cause an inside rebellion into the *West Inquisition*. And we will also take over the *East Inquisition*’s castle,” said Ditta.

“As a result, North and South Inquisitions would be divided. It will be easier for us to beat them,” continued Gamma.

“Now, these are only my words. But in few hours these words will come true,” said Ditta.

“Despite the fact that we lost in the south, because of Dmitry’s obstinacy, we still have a chance to rectify the situation in the east,” said Galita.

“We are not going to war to fail. Without a win we’ll never, never go back home,” said Gamma.

“The odds are on our side. If we keep our soldiers, then victory will be ours,” said Ditta.

“Among other things, our troops have managed to take half the lower ground floors. And they’re not going to stop there,” said Galita.

“Things aren’t that bad on the battlefield. I think we could beat Trey very soon,” said Ditta.

“They have more troops than us, but they still have problems. Our army is small, except it is highly trained,” said Galita.

“Their army is full of riffraffs, who are hard to keep in check. And at times, these are not even getting any pay,” explained Ditta.

“Yet, we thoroughly select each soldier. We train him. Then we send him into battle,” said Gamma.

“I can’t see Trey, Macbel, and Shatsura on that bus. Where could they be?” said Galita.

“Don’t worry about Macbel and Shatsura. Who cares about them? Let’s worry about Trey,” said Ditta.

“I think that we could get rid of Trey with the help of our sharpshooters,” said Gamma.

“We must do it now, before we miss this chance,” said Galita.

“We could prepare forever to get rid of him. Let’s do it now,” said Ditta.

“The sooner we get rid of Trey, the better it will be for our side. I see that our soldiers have stopped the bus and have surrounded it,” said Gamma.

“Hooray, we did it,” said Galita, who was no longer able to contain her emotions.

“Next we’ll have to storm the bus. I want to be present when we catch them,” said Ditta.

“Now the entire army of the *East Inquisition* is surrounded. I’m very happy,” said Gamma.

“I think that this battle is over,” said Galita.

“I’m ready to go and get them,” said Ditta.

“Let’s take our armoured personnel carrier,” said Gamma.

“I think we are better commanders than Trey is,” said Galita.

“This battle isn’t over if we don’t capture them,” said Ditta.

“Trey is still alive. But we can’t get to him. His bodyguards fight to the last drop of blood,” said Gamma.

“They can’t hold out forever,” said Galita.

“Trey is in big trouble. After so many victories, this is his first defeat. And he may even lose his life,” said Ditta.

“How do we deal with Macbel and Shatsura? The *East Inquisition*’s army will continue its resistance even without Trey,” said Gamma.

“Don’t worry about them two. They have little experience as commanders. And the three of us, we will outmanoeuvre them,” said Galita.

“I heard Shatsura is a great fighter. He has no equal in battle. It will be very difficult to win against him,” said Gamma.

“Then you deal with Macbel. I’ll deal with Shatsura,” said Ditta.

“We shouldn’t let them get away. We have to make sure we win,” said Gamma.

Gallita, Ditta and Gamma finally left their armoured vehicle. They wanted to take charge over the storming of the bus where Trey was.

“We have a long way to go before we reach our goal, but we have no choice,” said Galita.

“We must get Trey no matter what,” said Ditta.

“This is a tricky task,” said Gamma.

“Then follow me. I’ll lead you to victory,” said Galita.

“We’ll follow you to the end of the world, if we could get Trey,” said Ditta.

“Trey’s fate in our hands,” said Gamma.

“I’m proud to be in charge for this sensitive mission,” said Galita.

“Trey can’t fight our forces any more. This is where we come in,” said Ditta.

“Trey’s organization violated human rights for too long. All this must come to an end,” said Gamma.

“Sooner or later, the Order of the Inquisition and the Order of the Elements will have to answer for their crimes,” promised Galita.

“They are shooting everywhere. If we could only get to the bus unharmed,” said Ditta.

“We are alright so far. Let’s press ahead,” said Gamma.

“We will storm the bus easily, with the support of our army,” said Galita.

“I suggest we get some extra help,” said Ditta.

“The backup soldiers are on their way. We will be there soon. We have nothing to worry. Everything will be fine,” said Gamma.

“And here they are,” said Galita.

“I feel stronger now. We have extra soldiers with us,” said Galita.

“Trey’s bus is being stormed right now,” said Ditta.

“Trey had never been a positive public figure,” said Gamma.

Trey’s bus was fired upon, with grenade launchers. Galita, Ditta and Gamma finally entered the fight. They had soon found out that the occupants put a stiff resistance, in the hope that they might still be saved.

“Keep your head down,” ordered Galita. An explosion ensued. As a result, the bus door was blown apart.

“Let’s get in,” said Ditta. But they stopped in their tracks, because the shooting continued.

“We need to eliminate one fierce shooter. Otherwise we won’t get inside,” said Gamma.

“One moment,” said Galita.

She then explained quickly to one of her snipers, telling him the exact coordinates. As a result, the fierce shooter was eliminated. Our heroes continue to move ahead.

“They’re all gone,” said Ditta.

“Wait,” said Gamma.

“It’s okay,” said Galita.

“Let’s climb up the stairs to the second floor of the bus. We must get there quickly,” said Ditta.

“The guys that we are looking for are not here,” said Gamma.

“Be on alert,” said Galita.

“Our troops outside are in control of the situation,” said Ditta.

“We are nearly there,” said Gamma and she began to climb up the spiral staircase. Gallita, Ditta and Gamma were on the second floor of the bus. They faced a new danger. Trey was behind the door.

“This is not a barrier for me,” said Galita.

“It isn’t a barrier for me either,” said Ditta.

As they prepared to smash the door in, they’ve heard a shot. They thought that Trey had preferred to shoot himself rather than to fall into their hands.

“Trey did the job for us,” said Galita.

They smashed the door in.

“Don’t you understand that you have destroyed our Commonwealth?” said Trey.

And he threw a grenade, but Galita and Ditta have managed to dodge it.

“You violate the rights of people from your alliance. This will have to stop,” shouted Ditta.

“I have the interest of my people at heart. I do everything I can for them,” said Trey, and he threw another grenade, hoping to stop them.

“It’s not how much you care, is what you do that counts,” said Gamma, getting closer to Trey.

“We know better than you, how to run this country. If you get in power you don’t know what to do,” said Trey.

This time he couldn’t throw any grenade, because he didn’t have any left.

“I’ve had enough. I don’t want to listen to you any more. Draw your sword,” said Galita.

“Not so fast,” said Trey and he drew his sword.

“Your *Order* had outlived its time. You are no longer able to run the country,” said Galita, while going on the offensive.

“I pray to the higher powers that our system would survive. Otherwise you will lose this country,” said Trey.

“Have you sold your soul to the devil?” asked Galita.

“You don’t understand. And you don’t know either. You’re just a small pawn in the big game. You only to carry out someone’s orders,” said Trey.

But these were his last words, because Galita had chopped off his head.

“We did it. Trey is dead. This means that a revolt will start soon inside the *West Inquisition*,” said Galita, who was delighted. She couldn’t believe that they’ve won.

“We’ve done it. Now we only have to take the last floor of the castle of the *Order of the Air*,” said Ditta.

“I’m so glad that everything ended well. We’ve accomplished a great deal today,” said Gamma.

The three female commanders came out of the bus, as if nothing had happened. Macbel and Shatsura, drove past in one car, followed by some other cars. Macbel shot Gamma from his car. Her body fell to the ground. As a result, all their cars stopped. A new battle ensued.

Galita and Ditta were destined to fight against Macbel and Shatsura in a gun battle. “You killed my best friend. You’ll pay for it,” shouted Galita.

She then began to shot at Macbel.

“She got what she deserved. And you will get what you deserve too. You’ve killed Trey,” said Macbel, and he shot back at the two female commanders.

“I’ve heard that you Shatsura, you are a good fighter. Now it’s the time to check out if this is a myth or it’s true,” said Ditta.

“You’re after me, aren’t you? I’ll get you,” yelled Shatsura.

“You know that Trey is dead? I killed him with my own hands,” said Galita.

“It’s unfortunate. This world needs people like him. We will miss him,” responded Macbel.

“Tabor will be the next leader of the *West Inquisition*. We’ll make sure,” promised Ditta.

“Well, we’ll see. We still have a formidable people,” said Shatsura.

“You and your *West Inquisition* are a bunch of losers,” said Galita.

“And you are always a lost cause. I bet that Leagun will cry with bitter tears, when he learns that his ex-girlfriend was killed by my own hands,” laughed Macbel.

“How dare you talk like that about Gamma?” said Ditta.

It was hard to fight Shatsura. But she was determined not to lose. Otherwise everything would collapse. Zondon’s troops continued to wipe out their enemy.

“At this time, you fell into a trap. You won’t get out of here alive. You will perish at our hands. Your army will fall,” said Shatsura.

“What a pity that only two female commanders are left. If we were three...” said Galita.

“Perhaps Dmitry or Neon or even Leagun may come to help you. Although, I don’t think that Leagun will come to your rescue. Gamma is already dead. Oh, sorry, I forgot. You can’t flee.

I bet that your former boyfriends don’t come to your rescue now, because they know there is nothing they could do to save you from me,” said Macbel.

“We won’t forgive you if you continue to be rude,” said Ditta.

“By the way, why did you break up with your ex-boyfriend? Macbel told me that you were a very nice couple,” asked Shatsura.

“It’s none of your business. This isn’t the place to discuss such things,” said Galita.

“Galita, I know you for a very long time. One time I even thought you were hot. Now I want to kill you,” confessed Macbel.

“You are evil. If we don’t kill you now, then one day you might end up like Trey,” said Ditta.

“You should know that the *Order of the Inquisition* has more power than your order. This is a fact,” explained Shatsura.

“Come on, stop being in denial. Everything around has collapsed,” said Galita.

“Do you remember when we were sitting with you at the same desk? Even then, we were bitter enemies,” said Macbel.

“No Macbel, you and Abbot have always been scoundrels. Who wanted to be friend with you?” said Ditta.

“And yet you've already lost,” said Shatsura, and he plunged his sword right into Ditta’s heart. And she was dead.

Then Shatsura came to the aid of Macbel, who was already exhausted.

“You two, won’t get rid me,” said Galita.

“What is the difference? You won’t get out of this trap,” said Macbel.

“You’ll die in this place, and you won’t see the end of the war,” said Shatsura.

“Even if I die, my life wasn’t in vain,” said Galita.

“We won’t let you escape. You’ve killed Trey,” said Macbel.

“We are going to avenge Trey’s death,” said Shatsura.

“Even if I die, you won’t stop Zondon,” said Galita.

“Be sure that you will die. I promise you a quick end,” said Macbel.

“We have more important things to do. We’re going after your army,” said Shatsura.

“Please, spare my army. I don’t ask for more,” pleaded Gallitta.

“We are not going to spare no one. They shall all die,” promised Macbel.

“We are not going to spare anybody. Why should we spare your soldiers?” said Shatsura.

“Why are you so cruel?” said Galita.

“Why shouldn’t we be cruel?” said Macbel.

He poked her with his sword in the chest. Fortunately, the blade was not deep and she was able to continue to stand.

“And this is a little present from me,” said Shatsura.

This time he wounded her in the back.

“I’m still very young and not ready to die,” said Galita.

“Ditta, and Gamma were only few years older than you. And they are no longer alive,” said Macbel.

“Neon couldn’t save Ditta. Your only hope is Dmitry. But he has another woman in his life. Too bad he can’t come to your rescue,” said Shatsura.

“Please have mercy on our soldiers,” pleaded Galita.

“We have already said no. Didn’t you hear that?” said Macbel.

“However, if Dmitry was here, he would’ve killed us,” admitted Shatsura.

“Well, I’ve had enough, while begging you,” said Galita and she attacked Macbel. Macbel jumped on o side and she missed plunging her sword into him.

“You don’t stop,” said Shatsura.

He drove his sword into her heart, and she died instantly.

Zondon’s army was left without a leader. They lost, with high casualties. The castle of the *Order of the Air* hasn’t been taken. Even if the three female leaders

were dead, they proved to see into the future when they killed Trey. Without him, the *West Inquisition* will inevitably, elect a new leader, most likely Tabor. He will ally his order with Zondon. Together they will manage to win the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. Galita, Ditta and Gamma's names, will enter into the magic stories. They will be remembered forever. Their lives haven't been in vain.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

LONDON

During the night, the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of Elements* have managed to get some of their agents into Britain.

Meanwhile Artborg, Kate, Kate, Hezzord, Mennon, Griff, Miel and Selen left at *Coquelles'* train terminal, in France, to get to *Folkestone* in Kent, England. They travelled by train through the tunnel under the English Channel. In thirty-five minutes they have arrived in England. A new chapter in their journey had begun. "What wonderful people were Pierre and Isabelle," said Artborg, while he continued to praise them.

"They have helped us so much. I don't even know what we would've done without them. Had they not come to our rescue in Paris, we would've been dead," said Kate.

"We had very little ammunition. Our cars were in a terrible state. The last time we fixed our cars was in Poland, when we visited Arhir and Barhir. Much time has passed since then. We've fought many battles," said Kelly.

"It's important that now everything is fine. We are fully rearmed. We are ready to move ahead. We will make new friends in the UK," said Hezzord.

"It's so good that we managed to get some sleep last night on Pierre and Isabelle's bus. Now we are able to move on," confessed Mennon.

"Arhir and Barhir predicted that we will meet the *French magic Forces* in Paris. And they were right," said Griff.

"There aren't any enemy agents here in Folkestone. They are closer to London," said Miel as he looked into a magic map.

"We all live in Europe. But each country has its own point of view," said in Selen.

"As soon as we arrive in London, we will be able to get our hands on the *magic wand*. We can then go back to Zondon. This newly acquired weapon will help us win this war," said Artborg.

"Soon we will see a lot of interesting people in this country," said Kate.

"I've never been to UK before," said Kelly.

"Magicians around the world are faced with great danger. The conflict between our inquisitions has no end in sight," said Hezzord.

"First, the inquisitors declared war on us. Now they've sent agents to follow us everywhere we go," said Mennon.

"Many countries have been infiltrated with our enemy agents," said Griff.

“If only this war wouldn’t last too long. It will cause many victims,” said Miel.

“If only the magicians and inquisitors could form a new alliance,” said Selen.

Enemy agents haven’t infiltrated London yet. So our heroes have decided to go to this city. The day has just begun. They still have plenty of time before the evening. They may even go to visit the London Museum.

“I like London. I can’t wait to get there,” said Artborg.

“These buildings have style,” said Kate, referring to a small place in the countryside.

“Let get closer to the water, in a green area, and have a little picnic. We should have breakfast,” suggested Kate.

“Most likely that we won’t see blue sky when we get to London,” said Griff.

“London is the city where I was born. It will be lovely there, I promise you,” said Miel.

“It’s lovely for me too. I will like it,” said Selen.

“Here are some tables in this park. We can have picnic here,” said Artborg and he stopped the car.

“It’s a good idea. We stop and stretch a bit,” said Kate.

“Before we go ahead, it would be good to have some rest,” murmured Kelly.

“There are many piers across the UK. But not every town is located at the seaside,” said Hezzord.

“Our enemy agents couldn’t stop us before. I doubt they will catch us here,” said Mennon.

“We have to travel quite a bit. The most terrible things are behind us. We’re almost there,” said Griff.

“Our enemy agents will be in London too. But I think we will be able to drive past them,” said Miel.

“I have a plan. Why don’t we let our enemy agents see us?” said Selen.

After having a picnic at the beach, our heroes left the park and continued their way.

“Our enemy agents will still try to stop us. They will make our life harder,” said Artborg.

“First we had never travelled by car through other countries. We simply took a train to the desired location,” said Kate.

“Our enemy agents were unable to harm us while we were in France. But they have repeatedly tried to do so,” said Kelly.

“And maybe they won’t harm us while we are in the United Kingdom either. But we have to hurry and get out of here as quickly as we can,” said Artborg.

“Inquisitors fighting with wizards around London? I think it’s possible,” said Miel.

“British troops are resorting to magic to defend their capital city. Who knows how it would turn out?” said Griff.

“There is fierce fighting going on around London,” said Selen.

“I never thought that this would ever happen,” said Kate.

“You should know that the British magic troops, didn’t allow the French magic Army to come and help us,” said Artborg.

“First of all, our inquisition had betrayed us, but only at the start. Eventually, everything changed,” said Kelly.

“I don’t think that Pierre and Isabelle had bad thoughts. They probably just wanted to help us,” said Kate.

“Pierre and Isabelle are good people. But they simply obey orders,” said Griff.

“I don’t think that our government has any control, about what happens here,” said Kelly.

“They don’t need to. The main thing for any government is to collect taxes. Everything else is not important,” said Kate.

“We are not safe. There aren’t any troops to protect us,” said Artborg.

“Then maybe it would be better if British troops would give us some protection. We are in plain sight. And we could easily run into trouble,” said Miel.

“I don’t think that their army is here. But we shall protect ourselves,” said Selen.

“So far everything is all right. But if we fall into an ambush, it would be very bad,” said Miel.

“I don’t want to get into an ambush as we did in Paris. It would be very hard to get out alive,” said Kate.

“This can’t happen here,” said Griff. He was confident that British troops would come to their rescue if needed.

Our heroes continued to drive through London on the shortest possible route, not wanting to lose time. And so far everything went well.

“It has been a long time since I’ve last visited London,” said Artborg.

“I’ve heard that the housing market went up,” said Mennon.

“At least, the United Kingdom is the bastion of democracy,” said Miel.

“In the evening, we will deliver the *magic wand* to Zondon,” said Artborg.

“I have bad news. I have just read about it in one of Britain's newspapers,” said Artborg.

“I hope nothing bad happened to Zondon,” said Kate.

“Gallita, Ditta and Gamma have died,” said Artborg.

“This is sad news. They were my friends. They were also Dmitry’s friends. We knew them well,” sighed Hezzord.

“I have taught them for four years the art of handling knives. But they haven’t been able to protect themselves,” said Mennon, who thought that it may be his fault.

“Dmitry, Neon and Leagun were my best friends. I was with them at Zondon’s Academy. I am very sad to hear that their ex-girlfriends have been killed. I haven’t seen them for a long time,” admitted Griff.

“They are probably very upset now. After what happened, they may blame themselves for their deaths,” said Miel.

“I’m too sad to hear about it. I am sorry about what happened,” admitted Selen.

“The last good thing they did, it was that they got rid of Trey. They were good commanders. They done only good things,” said Artborg.

“Queen Abellin and Tuibe will get the *West Inquisition* on Zondon’s side,” said Kate.

“Now the names Galita, Ditta and Gamma will never be forgotten. They’ll go down in history, and will be remembered forever,” said Kelly.

“I’m sorry that they died. We’ll all miss them,” said Hezzord.

“Neon and Leagun are in mourning for sure,” said Mennon.

“Dmitry quickly found himself a new woman. I don’t think he was very upset because of what happened,” said Griff.

“I saw Dmitry. He often comes to Great Britain. I think he suffers too in a way,” said Miel.

“Let’s talk about the *magic wand* and how we will take it to Zondon,” said Selen.

“Here in England is peace and quiet everywhere,” said Artborg and he looked around.

“London is full of tourists from all corners of the globe,” said Kate.

“This is England. And London is a very popular place on the globe,” said Kate.

“All the cities here have suburbs, no matter what part of the country you are,” said Hezzord.

“Even London seems to me that it’s built like a village, with all those suburbs,” said Mennon.

“We are getting closer and closer to the place where may be some of our enemy agents. We must be on guard,” said Griff.

“It’s bad, if these enemy agents are in more places than we already know,” said Miel.

“I can’t imagine how it might end, if there are many of them,” admitted Selen.

“Even if *West Inquisition* will end this war, and they will become our allies, it’s unlikely that the war with the other inquisitions will end. Too many wish that the war went on,” said Artborg.

“On the other hand, France was able to take urgent measures. They drove out our enemy agents from their lands,” said Kate.

“The Magic Army of the United Kingdom will do the same,” said Kelly.

“Despite the fact that the *West Inquisition* in the magic Russia changes its way, the *Order of the Inquisition* will still refuse to go along with it,” said Artborg.

“Glyurt and Azar are going to bring a lot of trouble. Their armies will be very difficult to crush,” said Selen.

“Dmitry and Lissa had failed to take the *Order of the Water* in Volgograd. They’ve fought against the soldiers of the *South Inquisition*, who proved to be stronger this time,” said Kate.

“Glyurt and Azar don’t intend to stop the war. They are going to reshape the world,” said Kelly.

“The *South Inquisition* and the *Northern Inquisition* are strong. They don’t intend to bow to anyone. They always finished what they’ve started,” said Kate.

“Glyurt is a very experienced commander. Flurt has many people on his side,” said Griff.

“It’s a pity that our inquisition has rebelled against us,” sighed Miel.

“I never thought that one day, magicians and inquisitors would be at war with each other,” said Selen.

“It would be great, if we could get to our destination without an ambush,” said Artborg.

“I think that isn’t possible. Our enemy agents are probably tailing us,” said Miel.

“Today, something may happen. I hope that nothing bad will happen,” said Kate.

“This is such a long mission. Unfortunately it still goes on,” said Kelly.

“But don’t be upset. We are about to get the *magic wand*,” said Miel.

“It would be nice if we all managed to get back alive, after we finish this job. Also if the eight of us would still be together” said Griff.

“I think so too. It would be sad, if one of us will die,” said Kate.

“We have a great team. We are very good together,” said Kelly.

“Today we have to complete this mission. We are getting behind schedule,” said Artborg.

“We have a busy day ahead of us,” said Mennon.

“We went through so much, to accomplish this task. And we are almost there,” said Miel.

“Once we receive the *magic wand*, we will go back without restrictions, without fear of falling into a trap,” said Selen.

“I travelled all my life. For a wizard this is lovely,” said Hezzord.

“If you don’t mind, we’re going back to Zondon with you,” said Griff.

“I’ve never been to Zondon in my entire life. But I intend to visit it with you,” said Miel.

“I’ve been to Zondon many times. I’m delighted by this wonderful city,” said Selen.

“One day this war will end. That time is not far,” said Artborg.

“Trey is no longer alive. The *Order of Fire* with the *Order of the Earth*, have been through major changes. And this is just the beginning,” said Kate.

“Discontent is brewing in other orders too. *South Inquisition* and *Northern Inquisition* aren’t doing so well,” said Kelly.

“The new amalgamation headed by Zondon will be much more powerful. Everyone will be happy,” said Selen.

“I see. All of us are waiting for a bright future. But for now, we must deliver the *magic wand* back to Zondon,” said Miel.

“Today is our main assignment. A new chapter in our lives will start next,” said Griff.

“Every hard work has its rewards,” said Miel.

“This is an unforgettable trip. I’ll write a book about it,” said Kate.

Our heroes were driving through London. If everything goes according to plan, they will soon reach their destination.

“I don’t like it,” said Artborg suddenly for no apparent reason.

“I have a feeling that someone is following us,” said Kelly.

“I think so too,” said Kate.

“Let’s get off this road, and make a right turn,” said Artborg.

“It seems very suspicious to me, too,” said Griff looking around.

“Are you talking about that silver car, which followed us for a while?” said Hezzord.

“Somebody please look at Neon and Leagun’s map. Tell us what you see on it,” asked Mennon.

“I think we’ve been watched ever since we got here,” said Griff, looking at the map.

“We shouldn’t attract any attention. The agents will quickly realize what had happened,” said Miel.

“They are offering us a gift, I mean an ambush,” said Selen.

“What does the prophecy of Arhir and Barhir say?” said Artborg.

“They said that we’d be ambushed here. And that we can’t get away from it,” said Kate.

“And they have also prophesised that some of us may be killed. Otherwise we will not get out of the ambush,” said Kate.

“We can change our fate,” said Hezzord.

“They have followed us from the start. We didn’t see them,” said Mennon.

“Enemy agents have surrounded us. It will be very hard,” said Griff.

“Being sorry doesn’t help us. We have to get out of this trap,” said Miel.

“We weren’t watching our backs. We deserve this,” said Selen.

“What else have they predicted for us?” said Artborg.

“They’ve prophesised that in the end, our team will be divided in three parts. Not all of us would get to the Magic Castle and the United Kingdom, to pick up the *magic wand*,” said Kate.

“There are lots of bad things written about what lies ahead for us. I am afraid to read about it further,” said Kelly.

“Arhir and Barhir have always predicted with accuracy,” said Artborg.

“It’s a pity if some of us will die today. It will be irreparable loss,” said Kate.

“I suggest that we should change route, and go down the other road,” said Griff.

“It’s unlikely that we will fall into their hands. I think it’s a good idea,” said Kelly.

“So we all agree? We try to lose them in traffic,” said Griff.

Their car accelerated suddenly and they left their enemy agents far behind them.

“I wish you read everything that Arhir and Barhir have predicted,” said Artborg.

“Those of us, who get out of the first ambush, will get into another ambush. Then these guys will achieve much. They will win, and in the end they will get the *magic wand*,” said Kate.

“Another way to get to our target is to get some help from the British Army. Their magic will help us to get rid of our enemy agents who follow us,” said Kelly.

“I wonder how could we get in touch with their commanders?” said Griff.

“Their names aren’t mentioned in these predictions. But some of us may know these names,” said Kate.

“I don’t know them. We have a big fight ahead. It may be fatal to some of us, said Kelly.

“We are surrounded from all sides. We won’t last long,” said Artborg.

“Arhir and Barhir, didn’t predict anything to get us out of this predicament,” said Kate.

“I want to remind you, that not all of us have a chance to reach our destination, and get the *magic wand*,” said Artborg.

“We have to fight. Arhir and Barhir’s predictions can’t be cut in stone,” said Griff.

“We got used to each other on this trip. If we suffer casualties we will be devastated,” said Miel.

“We are still very young. We don’t intend to die in the upcoming battle,” said Griff.

“No one will die. I won’t let it happen,” said Artborg.

“Artborg, you can’t give guaranties here,” said Kate.

“We got out of that ambush in Paris, only because the French magic army rescued us,” said Miel. “I don’t see a single British soldier,” said Kelly.

“Then let’s break into two group of four people,” said Artborg.

“I think it’s a good idea. A smaller group fights with much ease,” said Kate.

“I promise you. No one will die,” said Griff.

“We are here to get to our destination. We will do our best,” said Kelly.

Our heroes decided to drive through a small forest so they could cover their tracks. But they didn’t know that their enemy agents had set up an ambush for them right there. As soon as they reached the middle of the woods, a huge tree fell in front of them, blocking their way. Then another tree fell behind them. It was a trap, and they knew it.

“I don’t remember having such a big shootout for quite some time,” said Artborg.

“Our enemy agents are keen to get rid of us,” said Kate.

“They planned it in detail,” said Kelly.

“They have used magic against us. For strange reasons, we didn’t even know,” said Hezzord.

“We are exposed. Our enemy agents could get us,” said Hezzord.

“It’s all because of me, I’ve told you to go through the forest,” said Griff.

“Arhir and Barhir had warned us from the start, that here in the UK it will become very difficult. But we ignored their words,” said Miel.

“I never thought that here in the UK, something this bad could happen to us,” said Selen.

“At the beginning of our journey, we could not think that we would get in an ambush.

But all that has changed,” said Artborg, and he threw a grenade.

“More recently, we thought that there would be all quiet. But it’s not,” said Kate.

“Even the Paris attack wasn’t as powerful. We will be stuck here for a long time,” said Kelly.

“I’m starting to believe that this ambush will split us apart,” said Hezzord.

“We need this *magic wand*. It will definitely help us win the war,” said Mennon.

“We could still get out of here,” promised Griff.

“We promise you that you’ll live. You’re only doing your job,” said Miel.

“I’ve told you to drive on this route. So it’s my fault,” admitted Selen.

As more enemy agents arrived, our heroes found it difficult to withstand this attack.

“Don’t worry Selen, it wasn’t your fault,” said Artborg.

“We are close to London. It’s only a short way to the castle,” explained Kate.

“We’ll be there in no time,” said Kelly.

“It’s a pity that we are encircled. I don’t know how get out of here,” said Hezzord.

“We will be lucky if we leave this place alive,” said Mennon.

“We have just contacted the Magic Castle in this country. They have already sent troops here.

“If they come soon, we may stand a chance,” said Griff.

“The Magic Castle, have assured us, that they will be here in few minutes,” said Miel.

“If they’ve told you they’ll come in few minutes, it may mean one hour. We simply can’t fight then for that long,” said Selen.

“Keep shooting,” said Artborg.

“And how are we going to get out of here if they kill us?” asked Kate.

“I think it’s too early to talk about that. We don’t know what is going on around us,” said

Kelly.

“We fight a large number of agents. We can’t break out of this squeeze,” said Hezzord.

“It it too risky. We might have to take desperate steps,” said Mennon.

“They can’t keep sending more and more agents against us,” said Griff.

“They outnumber us anyway,” said Miel.

“At least we are alive,” said Selen.

“It must be the last ambush in this country. Soon we get the *magic wand*,” said Artborg.

“It must be the last ambush,” said Kate.

“Arhir with Barhir have also predicted it,” said Kelly.

“If they could only lose the grip around us,” said Miel.

“Everything which has a beginning, also has an end,” said Griff.

“To think that only earlier we dreamed of success,” said Artborg.

“I doubt that Azar or Glurt will come here to stop us,” said Griff.

“After the demise of Trey, they will never appear in public, unless they stand behind a bullet proof screen,” said Kelly.

“Think about the *Order of the Water* and the *Order of the Air*. After the latest events, which happened around them, their role in the magical world have greatly increased,” said Kate.

The battle continued. Our heroes weren’t going to give up easily. They were very close to their destination.

“I don’t see this fight ending soon,” promised Artborg.

“Almost none of the commanders were injured in the war with the dead. But in a war with enemy agents there may be another outcome,” said Kate.

“We were doing everything possible to get rid of the bad leaders in their orders. They are trying to stop us as a payback,” said Kelly.

“We should keep an eye on them,” said Selen.

“Who will win this war, will rule the *magic world*,” said Artborg.

“The *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* won’t fade away. These orders have always been around and will always exist,” said Griff.

“They are an integral part of our country. Without them everything could collapse. We fight them only until they become our allies,” said Mennon.

“It’s been more than ten years, since the war with the dead ended. And we still fight them,” said Miel.

“We have too many enemies,” said Artborg.

“I hope that after the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements* will become our allies. We will never have to go to war again,” said Kate.

“It’s wishful thinking. We don’t know who is behind all this,” said Kelly.

“Both Glurt and Azhar shouldn’t be leaders. Influential people like Fire, or Tabor, should be in power,” said Kate.

“When the new leader of the *West Inquisition* establishes himself, and he becomes more powerful, I hope he is not as bad as Trey was,” said Griff.

“The new era will come very soon. It will be very good for all,” said Miel.

“I also feel that the world is changing. We have to welcome our triumph over evil. Things have always been no much different than the way they’re now,” said Kate.

“We will get out of this ambush alive. Our enemy agents won’t stop us,” said Artborg.

“We have bigger plans than before, of course,” said Kate.

“We didn’t come here to perish. We came to obtain the *magic wand*,” said Kelly.

“The *magic wand* will help us change this world into a better one,” said Hezzord.

“We still have to finish our assignment,” said Mennon.

“They could only stop us if they got hold of a new weapon,” said Griff.

“If our enemies lose the war against us, whatever they’ve accumulated it will be ours,” said Miel.

“Our enemies have a strong army. Anything else they have is helpless. So if we win against them, there isn’t any gain for us,” said Hezzord.

“However, one day their power will reach a critical moment. Everything which is out of proportion cannot stand,” Mennon reminded them.

“Everything you said is true. But it won’t happen that soon. And until then, they have nothing to fear,” said Griff.

“Our enemies have no clear plans for the future. Each inquisition has its own opinion,” said Miel.

“Nevertheless, they are united. I think that they may reach an agreement,” said Selen.

Finally, our heroes managed to dislodge themselves, but they were still in some degree of ambush. They’ve dealt with most of their enemy agents, but they couldn’t get out yet.

“We’re getting there. I still hope that we won’t lose any of us,” said Artborg.

“It’s a very difficult mission. It’s a miracle that we are still safe and sound,” said Kate.

“Despite the fact that we still couldn’t get out of here, I think we will be OK,” said Kelly.

“The main thing that we’re determined. It’s essential to have faith,” said Miel.

“We still have to outwit our enemy agents. Otherwise we will not get out of here,” said Kate.

“If it wasn’t such a difficult mission, we would’ve been back to Zondon long ago,” said Griff.

“This is a decisive battle. It’s so thorny. But it will ease a bit,” said Selen.

“Besides, this is our last ambush. From now on we will always have the upper hand,” said Kate.

“I have good news,” said Artborg.

I think I know what that is. We will leave this place,” said Kelly.

“Then it’s great. But what is your plan? Please tell us about it in detail,” said Kate.

“I think I understand your plan. After all, I think we are ready to get out of here,” said Kelly.

“Next task will be something similar. But it will happen in some other place,” said Artborg.

“Judging by what’s happening around us, I think this is it,” said Griff.

“I started to think that it’s over for us,” said Miel.

“We ran into such big trouble. We shall all pay an equal price for it,” said Selen. Only Artborg, Kate and Kelly have managed to get out of this ambush. For the others, the way out was still blocked. The new attack was now directed at the second car, in which there were Griff, Miel and Selen. They were the ones who couldn’t get out in time. Selen fell victim to the vicious attack of their enemy agents, and his body was perforated with bullets. Griff and Miel paid for their mistakes too. They were still in that horrible ambush with Hezzord and Mennon.

“We will help you to get out of here,” said Artborg.

“Don’t worry about us. You better go to London and fetch the *magic wand*,” said Hezzord.

“We can’t abandon you here. I want us to leave this place together, no matter what,” said Kate.

“Only you can go to London. We’ll manage here. I don’t want Zondon to lose the war because of us,” said Mennon.

“We still have plenty of time to leave this place. We want to stay a little longer with you,” said Kelly.

“We have a casualty. Selen is dead,” said Griff.

“If you don’t leave this place right now, who is going to deliver the *magic wand* to Zondon? We will perish here anyway,” Miel raised her voice.

“I can’t believe what I hear. This can’t be true,” said Artborg.

“We don’t need your help. Please leave us alone. You go on without us,” said Hezzord.

“But we can’t leave our old friends in the lurch,” said Kate.

“Kate and Kelly, you were my students at the *Zondon Academy*. Please follow my request. Go and leave us behind,” said Mennon.

“Okay, we leave. But you must promise us that you will do your best to get out,” said Kelly.

“Be sure that we shall see you back in Zondon,” promised Griff.

“We’ll make sure, we’ll see you more often,” said Miel.

Artborg, Kate and Kelly finally left them. They drove to London so they could get the *magic wand* and deliver it to Zondon. It was very hard for them to leave behind dear old friends, but they had no choice. With a big explosion, their enemy agents have split in two the remainder of the group. Hezzord was left with Mennon. Griff and Miel were together. From now on they have to fend for themselves in pairs.

“We thought that we would never be split. But we’re wrong about that,” said Hezzord.

“I also thought that it would be fun. I’m sorry to say that it wasn’t the case,” said Mennon

“Nevertheless, it seems that new agents won’t come any longer. I think that we still have a chance to leave this place,” said Griff.

“The number of enemy agents is getting lower,” explained Miel.

“It’s a pity that we lost Selen. He was such a good guy,” said Hezzord.

“He was only twenty. We shall remember him forever,” said Miel.

“It would’ve been better, if I had died instead of him,” said Mennon.

“We couldn’t save him. It’s our fault,” said Griff.

“It was my fault. I’ve dragged you into this trap. I can never forgive myself,” said Miel.

“Please don’t blame yourself for this. We are all to blame,” said Hezzord

“I’m sorry for all, including Ditta, Galita and Gamma. I’ve taught them to fight,” said Mennon.

“We will all die someday. Some will die earlier, and some later. We all have etched into our brains, the instinct to survive,” said Hezzord.

“It’s a pity that all happened the way it happened. Despite the fact that we are magicians, we were still unable to turn back the time and fix everything. It’s not physically possible. We should leave it at that,” said Mennon.

“I don’t intend to die. Selen was unfortunate,” said Miel.

“We have a lot of good things to do. After we get out of this ambush, we plan to live for a very long time,” said Griff.

The number of enemy agents continued to lessen. Hezzord with Mennon, as well as Griff and Miel has finally managed to get out of the ambush unharmed. They had to leave the body of Selen there. They couldn’t carry it while under fire. They went further west, and the latter towards the east, where they met with the British Magic Army.

* * *

Artborg, Kate and Kelly drove towards their destination, to get the *magic wand*. But enemy agents continued to follow them. As they found out later, the man in charge to follow them was *Tolstoy Hud*, a nasty enemy agent.

“I don’t think *Tolstoy Hud* is capable to be in charge. He will be toppled,” said Artborg.

“Let them topple him,” said Kate.

“They are the meanest. That’s way they were sent here to follow us,” said Kelly.

“It turns out they are also good strategists,” admitted Artborg.

“We got out of the ambush in France, only because help came in time,” said Kate.

“We got out of ambush, here too. Except for Selen who sadly couldn’t make it,” said Kelly.

“All our problems are because of them. Let’s get rid of them once and for all,” said Artborg.

“The main thing for us is to stay alive,” said Kate.

“We lost few people, but our enemies have lost more than us,” said Kelly.

“We should get rid of all our enemies,” said Artborg.

“The *big inquisitor*, the *skinny inquisitor* and the *average inquisitor*, these a very bad guys. If they get to power, they won’t be better than the late Trey,” said Kate.

“They done a lot of bad things to us,” said Kelly.

“I still don’t forget how they mocked us ten years ago, when we arrived in St. Petersburg, to pick up the Attorand’s sword,” said Artborg.

“They’ve kept us in this stupid castle for two weeks. Each time, they’ve sent us to do such stupid assignments. We could leave only after we’ve done all this hard work,” remembered Kate.

“We had to get rid of so many evil spirits, and *Zelenogobs*, and *Kozloskorps*. Damn these idiots who put our lives in danger. They could’ve just given us the Attorand’ Sword,” said Kelly.

“I’ve suffered even earlier. I’ve lost my first wife, because of that damn Abbot,” said Artborg.

This time all the cars, which followed them, had fell behind. Only one car, in which there were *Tolstoy*, with the *Skinny Inquisitor* and the *Average Inquisitor*, continues to shadow them.

“You tell us what you know about these three enemy agents that follow us,” said Artborg.

“I think that you Artborg, and your first wife Mary, and Mennon you all had problems with these three guys,” said Kate.

“Queen Abellin, Tuibe and Hezzord weren’t yet known to us,” said Artborg.

“Queen Abellin and Tuibe had studied together. They’ve been friends for a long time, although they prefer not to talk about it,” said Kelly.

“Even then, Abellin and Tuibe were outstanding students. In the long run they became leaders,” said Artborg.

“We are also interested in Dmitry’s story. In the end, he became head of the *wizard world*,” said Kate.

“He is now the most powerful magician in the whole *wizard world*. He has no equal. All the others are no match for him,” said Artborg.

“Despite the fact that he lost the battle against the *Order of the Air*, his status still remains unshaken,” said Kelly.

“He is a very wealthy man. But only ten years ago, I brought him from the streets into my apartment. I supported him with my own money, until he obtained a scholarship,” said Kate.

“He became so popular thanks to our help. We were his lucky stars,” said Kelly. Not long after they said that, the three enemy agents, overtook their car and cut their way forcing Artborg, Kate and Kelly to come to a standstill. They got out of the car, and they pulled out their swords, and were ready for battle. Artborg engaged into battle the *big inquisitor*. Kate was fighting against the *skinny inquisitor*. Kelly crossed swords with the *average inquisitor*. The battle was fierce. “I have to admit that both your ambushes, here in the UK and in France, were impressive,” Artborg praised them.

“We’ve met again. I have long waited for this moment,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“You won’t stop us from delivering the *magic wand* to Zondon,” said Kate.

“We’ll see. One of your mates is already dead. You’ll die next,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“Arhir and Barhir have predicted that we shall win this battle,” said Kelly.

“You are too arrogant. Your Arhir and Barhir are always wrong. They would’ve known that it will be us three, who would attack you,” said the *average inquisitor*.

“It’s not true. They are the best fortune-tellers. The entire *magic world* knows these two astrologers,” said Artborg.

“You don’t know that at St. Petersburg, our forecasters predicted a victory for us. *North Inquisition* shall never fall,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“Glyurt and Azar can’t hold the empire much longer. It shall crumble. Everyone wants to live longer,” explained Kate.

“We have a strong Order. I think that our order will survive, now that we have lots of new allies,” Kate.

“Between your Orders there are many differences. Your coalition won’t last long,” said Kelly.

“So far this hasn’t happened. And if it happens, we are ready to crush any rebellion by force,” said the Average Inquisitor.

“Your *South Inquisition* is at war against us. This is bad,” said Artborg.

“We have a very big influence on our country,” said the *Skinny Inquisitor*.

“*South Inquisition* exists only because you prop it up,” said Kate.

“It’s all absolutely true. But it’s a very populated area,” sighed the *average inquisitor*.

“And amongst all those people who form the *South Inquisition*, there are people who don’t cease to attack your troops. If I were you, I wouldn’t give them any help,” said Kelly.

The fight between our heroes and their enemy agents lasted for quite some time. There wasn’t any winner.

“We know that we are in a difficult situation, even without you telling us. We will fight to the last,” said the *big inquisitor*

“You think that you can get rid of us, and continue your journey?” asked the Skinny Inquisitor.

“Doing that we fulfil our mission,” said Artborg.

“You’ve rushed to conquer the *Order of the Inquisition* and the *Order of the Elements*. If you want to do the same thing to our Order, then prepare to die,” said the *skinny inquisitor*.

“Yes, very soon we’ll conquer your Order too,” said Kate.

“This will never happen,” said the *average inquisitor*.

“Why not?” said Kelly, and she plunged her sword into her enemy’s chest. And died on the spot.

“I’ll show you,” said the big inquisitor. He had lost his temper and he attacked Artborg madly.

“Hey, watch you manners,” said Artborg who continued to retreat.

“I want to help you,” said Kate. She went straight away to help her friend.

“Do you seriously think I can fight both of you at the same time?” said the *Skinny Inquisitor*, exposing his second blade.

“Yes, we think so,” said Artborg and Kate. Artborg plunged his sword into Hud, who fell.

“I’m still here,” said the *big inquisitor*.

“Listen here big guy. Your mates are both dead. Your turn will come soon,” said Artborg.

“We’ll help you,” Kate said to Artborg.

“Just don’t forget about me,” said Kelly.

“It’s not fair, you are three. And I am one,” said the *big inquisitor*, looking around.

“How many times have you hurt people weaker than you? Now your turn has come,” said Artborg, and he cut Tolstoy’s head.

“We have to get out of here as quickly as we can,” said Kelly.

“I think it’s a good idea. Let’s go,” said Kelly.

Artborg, Kate and Kelly have won the battle against the meanest enemy agents.

* * *

Despite the fact that the agents were without a leader, there were still lots of enemy agents left. Hezzord and Mennon got out of the encirclement and met the British troops coming to their aid. Artborg, Kate and Kelly had free hand to get to their objective.

“It’s true, because we had a good chat with our friends,” said Hezzord, right after they finished talking through a *magic link*, with the help of Miel.

“We did the right thing, when we decided to ask the British Magic Army for help. Artborg, Kate and Kelly will reach their destination without a hitch,” said Mennon.

“I also believe that without us, they won’t be able to deliver to Zondon this *magic wand*,” agreed Mennon.

“We don’t need to be all together again. It can take a long time,” said Hezzord.

“I think we did the right thing. Hostile agents may come here at any minute,” said Mennon.

The British Magic Army had rescued Griff and Miel at the last minute.

“I think that the day of reckoning for our enemy agents, is around the corner,” said Hezzord.

“Our enemy agents have brought nothing but trouble. Their men will be defeated,” said Mennon.

“In other countries, they were able to stay undetected, but no one knows for how long it will last. I don’t think that their defeat in the UK, came as a surprise,” said Hezzord.

“Even a couple of defeats don’t mean much for them,” said Mennon.

“More recently, we got out of the ambush. It seemed that it was all over. But after a while everything began to spin again,” said Hezzord.

“We shall get to *East London* before our enemy agents could get there,” said Mennon.

“They think that if they start a fight earlier, they are going to win,” said Hezzord.

“I hope that we will be victorious there too,” said Mennon.

“Those three inquisitors, were our sworn enemies for more than a decade. You know, the *big inquisitor*, the *skinny inquisitor*, and the *average inquisitor*. They are all dead,” said Hezzord.

“If our enemy agents won’t get any new reinforcement, they won’t have anymore power,” said Mennon.

“This only applies to the UK. Only here they could be eliminated in one day,” said Hezzord.

“Our enemy agents have used wicked ways to get us,” said Mennon.

After the British Magic Forces have rescued Griff and Miel, the fight with their enemy agents went on.

“I can see that the British troops clean up their country of our enemy agents. I hope that this operation will be a success, and we won’t be bothered again,” said Griff.

“After Artborg, Kate and Kelly will deliver the *magic wand* to Zondon, everything will be calm. But it will be the calm before the storm starts. It will start with even more ferocity,” said Miel.

“This is not the end of the story. It’s only the start,” said Griff.

“So far, our war against our enemies has affected only Europe. Soon it will affect the whole world,” said Miel.

“The Inquisition is a big problem. None of us will solve issues of this level. We must solve them together.

“Despite the fact that they lost few Orders, their forces are continuing to grow,” said Griff.

“There are still many countries with dictatorial regimes. These all count in our enemy favour,” said Miel.

Finally, this battle was over. The British Magic Forces have succeeded in rounding up all enemy agents.

“I’m glad that our enemy was defeated here,” said Griff.

“Artborg, Kate and Kelly will be able to reach their destination. It’s only a matter of time before they shall fulfil the mission. Now, they are no longer in danger,” said Miel.

“No one could prevent Artborg, Kate and Kelly from getting the *magic wand*,” said Griff.

“It’s a powerful weapon. It shall soon belong to Zondon,” said Miel.

“It’s a pity that Selen is no longer with the living. We will miss him,” said Griff.

“We knew him for two years. He was a great guy. But he died at the hands of the Inquisition,” said Miel.

“Do you think that anyone in Zondon will become the new custodian of the *magic wand*?” said Griff.

“I don’t know. It could be one of us,” said Miel.

“Perhaps, they will entrust it to Dmitry. But he is already the keeper of the Attorand’ Sword,” said Griff.

“Or it could be entrusted to some student from *Zondon Academy*,” said Miel.

“If they ask me, I would say to entrust it to Dmitry,” said Griff.

“I’m not going anywhere, before I find out who will be the keeper of the *magic wand*,” said Miel.

Later, Griff and Miel got in touch with Hezzord and Mennon through a magical connection. They confirmed that the fight was over.

* * *

In the meantime, Artborg, Kate and Kelly have arrived in London. They went to visit the local attractions.

The United Kingdom’s Magic Castle was situated in *North London*. Instead of attending to their job, our heroes went to visit the local attractions. They didn’t feel threatened any more, so they decided to have some fun.

“We have done everything that was required. We’ve got rid of the three inquisitors, who were in charge of our enemy agents,” said Artborg.

“We did a great job. They should thank us for this victory,” said Kate.

“If these three were alive, the battle could go on and on,” said Kelly.

“Thanks to our efforts, the forces of the Inquisition failed to stop us,” said Kate.

“Look at the famous *Tower Bridge*. Also look at the *Houses of Parliament* of this country,” said Kelly.

“Here in the UK all the local attractions are relatively far apart. But we’re going by car.

This means that time flies fast,” said Kate.

“There are so many nice things here. To see them all, it would take a long time,” said Kelly.

“But in the evening, we should be at the *United Kingdom’s Magic Castle*. We don’t have much time,” said Kate.

“It’s so nice that it’s over. Now we can drive safely through London. We didn’t value freedom so much, before,” said Kelly.

After our heroes visited the *Parliament House*, they went to see *Buckingham Palace*.

“In most countries, the monarchy is no more. Only here and in a handful of countries, this old institution has survived,” said Artborg.

“So this is the famous United Kingdom?” said Kate.

“We still have many things to see here in London before we leave,” said Kelly

“This is the *Westminster Abbey*. Look there is the *National Gallery*, *St. Paul’s Cathedral*, *Trafalgar Square* and many more,” said Artborg.

“And most importantly for us, is the *British Museum*, *History Museum* and *Victoria and Albert Museum*,” said Kate.

“Here in the UK all of the museums are enormous. To see them all, it will take us more than one day,” said Kelly

“Britain is one of the leading countries in the world. We can see many things here,” said Kate.

Our heroes continued their journey through London. They still had many things to see.

“This is *St. Peter’s Cathedral*,” said Artborg, pressing on the accelerator.

“Now we’re going to visit the *National Gallery*. Theoretically, we should have enough time,” said Kate.

“The *National Gallery* and *Trafalgar Square* are in one place,” said Kelly.

“We drive around, and it’s getting dark. All museums will be closed soon,” said Kate.

“It doesn’t matter. London is no exception. It’s beautiful at any time of the day,” said Kate.

“Our journey is coming to an end. Soon we’ll be in the *United Kingdom’s Magic Castle*,” said Kelly

It was finally getting dark. Our heroes were already in *Trafalgar Square*, not far from the *National Gallery*.

“And here is the famous column of Vice Admiral Nelson, who died fighting in the *French Army* in Spain,” said Artborg, getting out of the car.

“Today is a great day. I am glad that our journey here wasn’t that bad,” said Kate.

“While we travelled here, we have helped so many people, and this means that they’ve tried in vain. “Fate wanted us to have a wonderful stay. And it’s great,” said Kelly

“Attorand’ Sword was brought from far away too. And it served us well,” said Artborg.

“I hope that the *magic wand* will get on good hands, like Attorand’ Sword did,” said Kate.

“I don’t think we will be its keepers. More likely it would be someone else,” said Artborg.

“I don’t want to be the keeper of the *magic wand*. I have other things to do,” said Kate.

“Everyone has a role to play in this life. Queen Abellin, her second-in-command Tuibe, we as soldiers, we all have our place in this world,” said Kelly.

“I’ve achieved much in this life, and I don’t want to change it,” said Kate.

“You Kate, you Kelly, and I, we are happy with the way things are. But many people don’t think so, and they yearn for change,” said Artborg.

“We are important, because we are at the pinnacle of power. But not all people are at this level,” said Kate.

By this time our heroes have left, and they went to Piccadilly Square. For now they could see everything they wanted to see: the *British Museum*, the *Historical Museum*, as well as the *Victoria and Albert Museum*. Soon they saw in the distance, the majestic Magic Castle of the United Kingdom, where was kept the *magic wand*. After a while Artborg, Kate and Kelly arrived at the gate of the castle. And finally they came to the gate.

“Who told you to come at this late hour?” asked a voice from behind the gates.

“We have an invitation. We came to pick up the *magic wand*. Here are our documents,” said Artborg.

Welcome to the palace,” said the same voice.

The heavy gates were slowly opened, and behind them waiting was an officer who showed them the way to a sumptuous hall.

“Her Majesty the Queen will be here soon,” said the officer.

After fidgeting a bit, and waiting standing up, our friends saw a big door opening, and a voice had announced that the Queen is coming.

“Your Majesty knew we were coming,” said Kelly and she curtsied.

“We were told that you would come,” said the Queen.

“Follow us. We shall present to you the *magic wand*,” said the Queen.

“We don’t know how to thank Your Majesty, for the honour of being welcomed” said Artborg.

“We bestow this *magic wand* as a gesture of appreciation to Queen Abellin, because she is our ally,” said the Queen.

“Zondon is in a tough state of affairs. Your Majesty help is welcomed,” said Artborg.

“Queen Abellin thanks your Majesty for your great help,” said Kelly.

At last, the Queen followed by Artborg, Kate and Kelly walked to the sacred room, where the *magic wand* was kept. For the first time, the distinguished guests from Zondon saw it with their own eyes. The *magic wand* was hanging in the air in the middle of the room. It glowed with a silver glow.

“From now on, this *magic wand* belongs to Queen Abellin,” said the Queen.

“We are ready to take it with us right now,” said Artborg.

“Please don’t approach it too soon. It will kill us all,” said the Queen.

“Yes, Your Majesty,” said Kate.

“Take your time. We’ll tell you when to take it,” said the Queen.

“Take this cloth and wrap the *magic wand* in it,” said the Queen and she handed to Artborg a beautiful cloth.

“I thank Your Majesty,” said Artborg.

He accepted this gift, and he wrapped in it the magic wand, without touching it.

“That’s it. Now it's yours. You can go back to Zondon and present it to Queen Abellin,” said the Queen.

“Yes, Your Majesy,” said Kate.

“You are invited to join us for dinner,” said the Queen.

“ Thank you Your Majesty,” said Kelly.

Artborg, Kate and Kelly sat in the main hall of the castle, with the Queen, and they were served dinner. All three were asked different questions and they were only glad to answer. They felt a bit of unease, for having such honour to dine with the Queen.

Soon after dinner, Artborg, Kate and Kelly said goodbye to the Queen. All three went back to Zondon.

Meanwhile there were big changes at the West Inquisition. Father Tabor, a supporter of light, came to power after father Trey had been killed. As a result *Zondon* and *Zondon Inquisition* has teamed up with *West Inquisition*, as well as the *Order of Fire* and *Order of the Earth* and they all have created the *Zondon Alliance*, which includes all these Orders. Their enemies have formed a *Union of the Inquisitions*, which consisted of *North Inquisition*, the *South Inquisition*, *East Inquisition*, the *Order of the Water*, the *Order of the Air*, as well as the recently formed a new *Order of the Earth*. The new leader of the *Order of the Inquisition* was father Glurt. He was on the second place to the leading positions. The *magic wand* has chosen Dmitry as its guardian. Because of this, Dmitry’s role in the *wizard world* has grown even stronger. He eventually became the leader of the *Zondon Alliance*. He held even a higher position than Queen Abellin. She continued to be the Queen of Zondon.