

Chapter 1 (Session 1)

Our campaign is set 6 years after the events of The Amber Spyglass.

The story began with an eclectic group of individuals meeting at the Eagle and Child pub in Oxford. They have all been contacted to be part of an expedition into a parallel universe. A few years ago a geologist named Diana Trent discovered a large piece of amber while working and sent it to her retired mentor from Jordan College, Lord Nicolas Steno. Shortly afterward, Lord Nicolas discovered that under certain conditions the amber could press the fibers of the universe thin, and believed that wherever the fabric was already thin, a portal could be made.

Lord Nicolas was found dead in his townhouse estate 1 week ago. Oakley Street believes that Lord Nicolas' work could be used to discover an arctic world that the Panserbjorne could inhabit, and if the Panserbjorne had a new home, they may be willing to wholeheartedly throw their weight against the Magisterium should tensions develop into a war.

Our crew was composed of:

Professor Diana Trent and HinHan (Barn Owl): a geologist who has been living with the Lakotas in New Denmark for at least a decade. An expert on survival, geology, and inheritor of Lord Nicolas' work.

Cara McCallum and Fiona (Arctic Fox): A rebel scholar and inheritor of a fortune after her parents died in a mysterious accident. Cara has been researching dust, parallel universes, and attempting to discover what happened to Lord Asriel.

Jaina Keller and Liam (Raven): An airship pilot from Switzerland. A well traveled and eccentric mechanic, whose father is well known in the airship community for his designs.

Morton Fleming and Dolores (Gorilla): Officially just an aging handyman. A bit of a jack-of-all-trades figure with a love of animals and a gentle inner spirit plagued by a shadier past.

Phineas Hayden and Sydne (Gray Rat): A teenage orphan who has somehow become tied up with the affairs of Lord Nicolas.

Jaina was contacted by a secretive alethiometrist named Jesse McCall looking to put together a crew, and soon found that this was part of a larger Oakley street operation.

As Jesse McCall's health began to decline, Sal Martinez, his apprentice, took over leading the meeting at the Eagle and Child pub. As he quickly tried to explain the nature of their mission, he

let slip that an eccentric billionaire, Lord Astor, has been putting together an expedition to the arctic as well. Sal explained that they still needed to find Lord Nicolas' journals (that evidently contain maps of the multiverse), and that Jaina's airship had a blown engine that needed to be repaired. He also suggested that someone investigate Lord Astor's recruiter at the Bodleian library.

Suddenly, representatives of the CCD entered the pub to take Sal in for questioning while Sal pretended to be a salesman for an MLM. As he was led out of the pub, the crew broke into groups to tackle the tasks, and agreed to meet up later for meat pies.

Phineas and Cara:

Phineas and Cara left to investigate the recruiter at the Bodleian library. As Cara introduced herself and a secretary lazily flipped through applications and resumes, Cara realized the names were all people associated with research on dust. When the secretary inquired as to why Phineas was there, Cara replied that he was her assistant, and with disgust the secretary dismissed them.

Cara and Phineas split up to scour the library for any books that could help them with the expedition, and Cara stole "When Worlds Collide" - a book of conspiracy theories about Lord Asriel, and Phineas stole a key and a candybar from someone.

Professor Diana Trent:

Professor Diana Trent went to Lord Nicolas' townhouse to find the journals. Realizing that Sal had the key she had retrieved a day before, he approached a neighbor and her grasshopper daemon and played to the woman's concerns for the old man. As it turned out, the woman had her own key to his home as she frequently watered his plants.

The two entered the townhouse, and Diana discovered that someone had very neatly cleaned up the crime scene. Diana heard a noise upstairs and sent the neighbor up to investigate while she searched Nicolas' library. Though she struggled to find the journals, she did find an unfinished will written by Nicolas Steno, which mentioned giving her most of his collection, while leaving the rest of the estate to Phineas, should he acquire an education. Diana's daemon, HinHan, discovered the books hidden in a recess on the top of the bookshelf.

Diana quickly left the townhouse and spotted some startled nuns who quickly turned away from her.

As Diana met up with Cara and Phineas, she asked how Phineas knew Nicolas. At first Phineas feigned ignorance, then admitted it was his Grandad. Diana insisted that Nicolas had no children, and Phineas shrugged it off. In frustration, Diana decided not to tell Phineas about the will.

Jaina Keller and Morton Fleming:

Morton initially thought he might know someone with the right parts, but after sometime, realized that the part they needed was going to be difficult to find. They decide to see if they can con a local “chain” airship store for parts: AirshipZone.

As Jaina entered the front of the store, Morton attempted to enter through the back. Jaina at first pretended to be picking up an order for her father, but the manager didn't buy it. After a few more attempts at convincing the man, she feigned a panic attack and the manager closed the store so he could deal with the customer.

Meanwhile, Morton was spotted by an employee as he tried to break in. Morton then feigned being an old man looking for a restroom and the employee led him inside. Morton wandered around in ignorance until he saw a part that might be used to fix a broken engine, and slipped it under his shirt. After using the restroom, Morton was taken to the front of the store where he demanded what had happened to his daughter.

Believing that Morton was Mr. Keller, the Airship designer, the manager begged for his autograph, and after Morton effectively defaced a blueprint for a Keller Engine, Morton and Jaina left the shop with the part they needed to fix the airship..

The Airdocks

After some meat pies, everyone traveled down to some Airdocks where Jaina's airship was parked. As she got to work fixing the engine, Jesse McCall flailed around helplessly as he seemed to be in the midst of an anxiety attack. His Western Meadowlark Daemon bossed everyone around until suddenly their exits were blocked by some thugs, and two nuns. Ahead of them, Lord Astor's airship came into view, blocking their escape from the air.

One of the nuns, with a Peacock daemon, demanded Nicolas Steno's books, claiming he stole them from the Magisterium. When Diana Trent refused to hand them over, the nun said they would take it by force, and it was quickly discovered that she was a witch working for the Magisterium.

As chaos ensued, Diana was struck with some sort of poison dart from a sad looking bald man with a Flying Fox daemon. HinHan and the Flying Fox began to fight in the air. Morton fought against a man with no daemon, while Dolores helped him, but the two were quickly overpowered by the brute. A man pointed a gun at Phineas, who attempted to convince the man to leave them alone.

Jaina and Liam tried to ready the airship, but as the witch made the weather stormy, Saemus had difficulty untying the ropes holding the airship down, and Jesse's daemon unhelpfully barked orders at Jaina while she tried to repair the engine.

After Cara managed to stab the witch, the witch put a spell on Cara, filling her with hatred for her own companions. The witch again demanded the return of the books. Cara tried to tell the witch she had the books, but the witch didn't believe her.

As Morton was slammed against the ground, Professor Diana Trent attempted to give the witch one of the books, but the witch demanded all of them. Seeing her companions quickly overwhelmed, Diana surrendered the books to the witch, and she flew up into Lord Astor's airship. The rest of the thugs abandoned the fight, except the sad bald man who continued fighting, attempting to shoot Phineas with one of the darts. Phineas dodged, and after Diana shot two arrows into the shoulders of the bald man, Phineas managed to knock him out.

The wheezing sickly Jesse told Professor Trent that they didn't need the books - because all they need is him and his alethiometer. With the crisis behind them, Jaina finishes repairing the airship and the crew set sail for Svalbard.

To be continued in Chapter 2 (Session 2)