

Synopsis - The missing piece of the puzzle

Part 1 The Arcade

I am Dr. Amber Matthews of the MB Laboratory in Woods Hole, Ma. Here beside me is my son Flavus M. Thorsen. We are the main characters of the story, but you will also meet the rest of the family, my husband Dr. Jason Thorsen and my other son Lucius. We live in the United States of America in late 21st century in a highly technologically advanced society and find ourselves unwillingly involved in something horrific and mysterious, beyond imagination. Something that will change our lives forever, a deadly puzzle to solve.

Ah, I was forgetting someone important: Victor, my goldfish...but don't worry he will not forget me.

“...and Ladies and Gentlemen, look at the Arcade, isn't it wondrous? You have arrived this far, you wouldn't turn back now, would you?”

Part 2 The Collector of Opportunities

A year after “The Arcade” events.

The Thorsens are still dealing with the aftermaths of their shocking experience and its too many unanswered questions.

Among dangerous secrets, deadly conspiracies, double-dealings, encrypted codes, they, together with NSA Agent Angel Tallbright, will obstinately search for the truth, which will turn out to be a very complicate puzzle that will lead them to an unimaginable reality and the overwhelming responsibility to create a new and better future for mankind.

The Psychic Guild, of which Flavus Thorsen is a member, will do its best to give humanity that chance, but will the Roman Church be ready to accept the change and the loss of her certainties?

Excerpts

Part 1

(Chapter 1-Victor)

“Come on, little bastard, bite it!”

Amber T. Matthews, biologist at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, could not understand the tiresome persistence of that damn fish. For weeks, at first randomly and then with gradually increasing astonishment, she had been watching the intriguing phenomenon represented by Victor.

By the way, why Victor? Why had she chosen the name, she couldn't really tell, but it looked, no doubt there, like a "winning son of a bitch" and Victor had seemed from the start the right name for that Japanese goldfish.

(Chapter 9-Flavus)

(...) The stray that was following me, mustering all its courage, brushes its snout against my leg and yelps meaningfully. It wants me to get away from that place and take it with me. But I am here to unravel this mystery and I am in search of Jason Thorsen, my father.

I look at the dog, caress its coarse head and walk calmly towards the line of tormented beings, not once looking back.

Excerpt Part 2

(Chapter 6-The Plot)

On the third floor corridor of the Vatican Palace the silence was absolute.

In the dimly lit antechamber the two Bishops were sitting motionless, waiting. It was late, but they were prepared to wait for the whole night, if necessary.

A feeble echo of soft murmurs seemed to reverberate among the high ceilings and the saints' portraits that decorated the walls. A few nuns came out of the papal chambers and passed behind them, sweeping the precious marble floor with the hem of their habits and vanishing into the dark hallway.

They had been waiting for hours. From the window overlooking St. Peter's square they have seen the flaming Roman sunset dissolve into a dark and starless sky.

The sound of hurried steps told them their waiting was over. A young Jesuit, father Nicola Rea, knelt in front of them and kissed their rings. He whispered the short, confidential message in the ear of His Excellency Gregorio Estenzi, knelt again and left without waiting for an answer.

“Is it confirmed?” asked His Excellency Enrico Borsi.

“Yes”

“It's never happened before.”

“No, never.”

“Not in the last five pontificates.”

“... the last six.”