

The Seven Spell Book three of The Seven Spell Saga

Chapter Five

I was at the waterfall; I had heard not a peep out of Tristan, which even if we had not been going through this stuff was largely unheard of. So where was he I thought, yet couldn't bring myself to contact him.

I had brought a large white pebble from the garden at home; there were a few around amongst the smaller white gravel stuff that was between the borders, and the paving stones around the house. That would surely do, we could see it, it couldn't attract that much attention, it would sink into the water after a while and it was all I could think of.

It was ten minutes before four and Oliver dashed down the bank, he had his bow tie undone around his white shirt collar, which was open,

“Chloe, hello”, he kissed my cheek, “have you heard from Tristan at all, I thought he might message or something before this time slot?”

“No Oliver I have heard nothing from him, and I haven't contacted him. Let's just check this time slot”.

I had my cell in my hand to check the time and the pebble in the other. At exactly four I threw the pebble onto the portal area, nothing happened; the pebble remained there. Oliver and I watched until ten minutes past the hour, nothing.

“Right then, obviously that's another theory up in flames”.

Oliver grimaced as we set off up the bank to get Oliver back to work. I walked with him back to the restaurant; the sun was still very warm on our backs, Oliver held my hand.

“Approaching this from if I was writing it as a computer loop so to speak” Oliver said thoughtfully, “I would think in sevens, could we have had seven slots and the next one will be a default back to seven tonight. Did you say you had tested the seven seconds and minutes this morning Chloe?”

I thought about this and there could have been seven slots, three at seven last night, we had to assume three at two in the morning and it could easily just have been the one slot at nine this morning, as I had no time to test the seconds and minutes, since Corbett showed up. I told Oliver this and he grinned, “We will check the thing again at seven tonight that will tell us, because now there has been no four o’clock the eleven o’clock one can’t be right. As luck would have it Chloe, I can come over after my shift about six thirty again and we can test it”.

We had reached the restaurant and entered the little corridor of shelves at the staff room end. Oliver stopped here and turned to me, “We will figure this out Chloe and then start to manage it”, he kissed me, and I slipped my arms around his waist and hugged him.

As I walked the short distance home, I thought about Steven’s birthday present and I wanted to get something for Will too, it was hard to know what to do, take the risk on a gift that might fit the bill or just get some gift vouchers from the music shop in the town with the lovely old church. The one with the car park nearby that always reminded me of finding Oliver’s Landrover, when he no longer existed as this Oliver.

I had reached home, and went in to find mom and Steven in the kitchen, they were talking about Steven getting a drivers license. Mom was going to get Steven a car and he was having the necessary lessons here as his birthday present. That was cool I told them. Steven was being picked up soon to go to a rehearsal and mom was going up to have dinner with dad as soon as Steven had left, she would be out until around ten she told me.

I went up to my room deciding that music store gift vouchers were the way to go for both Will and Steven, I would try to get over to the store early next week to get them.

There was not very much time until Oliver would come round after his shift ended. I went to my window and looked out at the garden and the lawns and woods beyond, what was going on with Tristan I thought. I was about to call him when my cell registered a text message.

It was Tristan and he was asking if Oliver and I had remembered about the Eleanor treasure being moved that night. I

hadn't thought about it after yesterday's plan but it definitely could go ahead. I messaged back that we would be here when he was free; would it still be about eight? He messaged back yes. That was it, no love sent or extra words just yes.

I put my cell in my pocket, and picked up my jean jacket, I missed my leather jacket that had been left behind in the eleven hundreds, but too bad.

Downstairs again I found Steven and mom had gone, I made some tea and just stood there at the French window of the kitchen looking out at the sun beginning to set. It puzzled me when I thought about how Tristan was obviously not coping with what was happening. He hadn't seemed the type to go to pieces but that's what it seemed like was happening.

The doorbell rang and I jumped slightly as I had gone into a dream.

Oliver stepped in as I opened the door; he was still in his work clothes, but was carrying his jeans and a t-shirt.

"May I get changed somewhere Chloe I just wanted to get over here quickly so that we could make sure we got down to the waterfall on time?" he said as he actually bypassed me and went into the utility room. I walked over to the kitchen sink and called, "Will you have coffee?" as he obviously was using the utility room to change in.

I had filled the electric kettle when he came out carrying his work clothes and put them on the table. "Yes please, oh no better not yet, we should get going really, I wanted to tell you some gossip on the way, do you still have another pebble?"

I held one up from the end of the work surface, where it had been sitting since I picked another up after the failed four o'clock portal opening, and had dropped it in readiness.

Oliver smiled as I put the pebble in my jacket pocket,

"Chloe Liz was working tonight, she came in early to talk with Marcel, but and this is the gossip, she was saying her dad had spent way too much on the new arts holiday venture and so far there were no bookings for when it opened next month".

We were out of the front door and walking towards the top path, Oliver had taken hold of my hand.

"Oliver surely it's out of season now maybe they can't expect to have much success until next summer?" I said to him.

“Well that’s not what they hoped Chloe, apparently they hoped what with the west wing being made into almost luxury accommodation that it would be a non seasonal venture. That they could run it all year just change the offerings and residential artists. Liz was miserable and Will had been comforting her and she said that the whole venture had so far cost more than twice what they had originally projected for who knows what reasons. I think they know but I don’t I mean. It apparently has pushed their finances onto the brink, and she said Jack was thinking of selling off more of the estate to cover the shortfall”.

We had reached the waterfall and I checked my cell phone, eight minutes to go good plan not to have coffee I told Oliver.

He turned to me, “Your dad bought the restaurant, and the immediate entertaining grounds didn’t he?”

He had put his arms around me and kissed me quickly before I answered. “He did buy it, well I mean not outright, some of it’s mortgaged, but you know its not rented is what I mean”. I returned his kiss and then we looked towards the portal, its funny calling the time travel spot the portal but it works as a one-word description.

I had my cell in front of my face almost and the pebble ready to throw, Oliver pulled me back a little as I was a bit close, but it seemed to me that you actually had to step into the reeds to do the travelling.

Seven o’clock, I threw the pebble, it sat on the thicker part where the reeds made the pad like place, if you stood on it for any time your foot starts to get wet as you sink a little, but the pebble just landed, and then it was gone. Gone into the eleven hundreds I hasten to add not into the water. Oliver and I looked at each other, he smiled, “There it is, the default, bet the next time slot is two am”, he was happy.

“Oliver are we testing the seven minute slot, maybe just to be sure, find a branch, its too late for the seven second one”.

He looked around, “How do you think it works Chloe, like a worm hole that you see on space travel TV programs?” he had found a piece of fallen tree that had the remains of some kind of blossom on it.

“When I did it, travelled I mean, it seemed like the slightest wavering in the atmosphere, barely anything; throw the branch now Oliver”.

It was seven minutes past on my cell and the branch was gone.

Oliver raised his eyebrows, nodding, “There we are, it’s definitely the default, so I’m sure of the pattern Chloe. I hope this helps Tristan. Hey maybe that’s what’s wrong with Tristan maybe he has the financial stuff on his mind. Liz was not very happy, she didn’t say what Jack wanted to sell of the estate but lets face it, it can’t be nice seeing your ancestral lands go down the pan every so often even if its just a couple of fields”.

We were up the bank and walking along the top path when I reminded Oliver of the plan to move what we had come to call the Eleanor treasure. He had his arm around my shoulders and he stopped walking and put both arms around me.

He put his forehead against mine and then kissed me, “I think I had better kiss you now, as I will not even get to hold your hand once Tristan is with us”.

I felt a twinge of some emotion, what was it, guilt, sadness? I didn’t know.

I kissed him back and hugged him tight.

When I let go he was smiling.

We walked on home, and this time Oliver did get his coffee, he was drinking it and we were talking about the double party for Will and Steven. The doorbell went and it was Tristan, I took his hand at the door and smiled at him, “How are you going?” I asked him softly.

He looked at me sadly and as we went into the kitchen and I let go of his hand he went around to the far end of the kitchen table and sat down. He sighed, “Things are not as bad with the Corbett situation as I expected. I don’t know if the sorcery business with my father primed him for this time travelling stuff but he’s kind of lapping it up. He’s not even fazed by my still being alive, I took him to see the abbey ruins and the glass that he helped make and he was euphoric, loved it, said how wonderful it had lasted this long and protected me. I let him think I was alive because of the stained glass, safest thing I thought. It’s as if he’s on holiday in a foreign land he’s like a

tourist, looking around, checking things out, he went with me to see Gui and Matin, this made Gui's day. Naturally they had come across each other before and I have to admit that seeing Corbett has kind of verified the story I had spun to Gui about this place being another estate".

Oliver being kind as usual had made Tristan coffee and put his hand on Tristan's shoulder as he put it in front of him on the table. The gesture of comfort and friendship seemed to help Tristan.

"I'm sorry I was such a trial this morning Chloe, I wasn't blaming you really; I just feel a bit weighed down with pressure at the moment".

Oliver and I exchanged glances,

"We think, well I am pretty sure we have figured out the portal's pattern Tristan". Oliver told him.

Tristan was just about to take a drink of his coffee and he put the cup back down, "Really, I forgot you were going down there at four, sorry, what happened?"

"Nothing, the four o'clock slot didn't work and thinking in sevens we decided to go at seven o'clock, that worked, so it's almost certain there are seven slots, three at seven in the evening, three at two am and one at nine in the morning, then it defaults back to seven in the evening. You can go down there at eleven tonight to prove it wrong if you want to Tristan but I feel sure that's the pattern".

Tristan sighed, "Thank you both for that, I still feel worried about someone else coming through".

"Maybe no one else will, after all Corbett did follow my fruit, Matin is a horse and Gui well that's was pure accident related to Matin. Maybe it's been a hectic time and now there will be some peace. I hope so", I said to both Tristan and Oliver.

Tristan did drink his coffee then and we decided to go down to the big drawing room and sort out moving the Eleanor treasure.