

The town of Catheway sits quiet in the dusk. The news of Leland's arrest and his plot to destroy the town has not reached the ears of the townsfolk yet.

Two miles away, in the forest, the ground begins to tremble. The two newly-crafted Elder signs rumble and glow as an ancient evil struggles against the magic holding it at bay. With one final scream of rage, the evil sends all its power skyward. The heavens darken; dusk becomes black as midnight, and a green glow forms over the skies of Catheway.

Suddenly, a massive bolt of sickly green light shoots from the heavens, engulfing the entire town. In an horrific eternity of seconds, greenish flames cover every last building in the small town. The screams of the inhabitants last the barest of an instant.

Then the light fades back into the darkness, which returns to the ground beneath the Elder Sign, a black mist that reveals the dusky sky beneath it.

Catheway is gone, utterly consumed by unholy fires.

"I didn't know you had it in you," a voice says from the forest.

"It wasn't I," comes a muffled voice from within the vault. "A side effect of those cursed wards, perhaps reacting to my anger."

The figure steps from the forest, and Alan Collins stands surveying the Elder Signs. "More likely, the Elder Signs ensuring there are no nearby sacrificial victims to sate your hunger. I can't free you from here, now. She's a clever girl, my Anita. She and her friends are far more dangerous than we'd anticipated. An oversight on my part, I admit."

"An oversight? You fool! I'll never get free, now!"

"Relax, my lord Xalotun. There are other ways, other routes to the Deeper Dark. I'll tear your soul free and you will return in all your glory. And then, my friend, Leviathan will rise to consume this world in eternal night. We shall be gods."

"As of this moment," Xalotun replies, "I care not about godhood. I will settle for vengeance."

Collins nods, pats the side of the sealed vault, and says, "We shall speak again, soon."

The Black Sorcerer turns and walks into the forest, as the last rays of daylight disappear on the horizon.