

SHATTERED EARTH

Recent History

In the past 50 years, the world has reconnected. The 5 nations, Columbia, Europa, The Provinces, Oceania and New Russia, have an un-easy truce. War is futile whilst humanity is small; but that does not prevent scuffles, and prejudice.....

In an effort to keep this un-easy truce the nations formed a separate structure called the Conglomerate, now 20 years old, with the original purpose of co-ordinating diplomatic relations, run by a representative from each nation, voted for by the people. For almost 10 years this structure did not do a lot but talk once a year, and keep the peace.

That was until a Columbian trade ship, blown off course by a devastating storm, struck ground where they thought no ground should be. Far to the South from their wanted destination, the captain felt they had landed in Africa, a harsh and hostile place. Shipwrecked, they had no choice but to explore to find shelter from the storm. What they found, defied all that they thought they knew; animals that only now existed in books, ruins with script that they had never seen before, and strange standing stones similar to those found in Europa, but with symbols nobody recognised. When the storm cleared, days later, and the survivors stood upon the beach, they could see the African coast North East of them – where they stood should not be there, by all the maps they knew. Looking behind them, was land as far as the eye could see, of vast deep, rich green forests; full of life.

Weeks later, when the surviving crew had made their way around the coast, and across a land bridge into Africa, they knew that where they had been was special. It was a mystery that needed to be solved. After months of walking, they finally found themselves in Europa, their original destination, and made their discovery known.

That was 5 years ago, and it was then the Conglomerate changed. The information pertaining to this new place was contained, as best it could, though rumours would always circulate. The land the ship had crashed on was no one nations land, and the Conglomerate changed into a company devoted to solving its mysteries. Controlled still by the high-ranking diplomatic corps of each nation but operated by a military unit made up of soldiers, or mercenaries, less than a year later they occupied the new landmass. As the ruins and the animals were rediscovered, scientists, archaeologists, pathologists, medics and all manner of support staff were shipped to a base created just over the land bridge, to study what was there. Only those who sign the papers, who are then sworn to secrecy, know for certain that it even exists.

Then almost 3 years ago, the world again changed. Reports across the globe told of strange creatures, strange occurrences and even stranger affects happening to people from every corner of the world. From entire villages deserted in pools of blood; missing people from their beds; children walking off into the woods never to be seen again; nightmare beings emerging from the dark; and humans becoming... something else, everyone became scared, and panicked, and chaos started to ensue.... The European council, besieged by displaced citizens, suggested a meeting of nations to discuss the crisis.

Following a period of talks across endless letters, and what communication equipment existed from out of Columbia, a delegation was called. The location; the base on the new landmass, now unofficially called Nullius from ancient Latin, meaning 'nobodies,' was chosen. No reports similar to what has been happening almost everywhere else, had yet happened near the base, and so was determined to be the safest place, despite its unknown nature, for information to be pooled and discussed.

That delegation, along with the latest complement of military, scientists, medics and support staff, set off from the Southern most Espanian port; Valenda, 10 days ago...