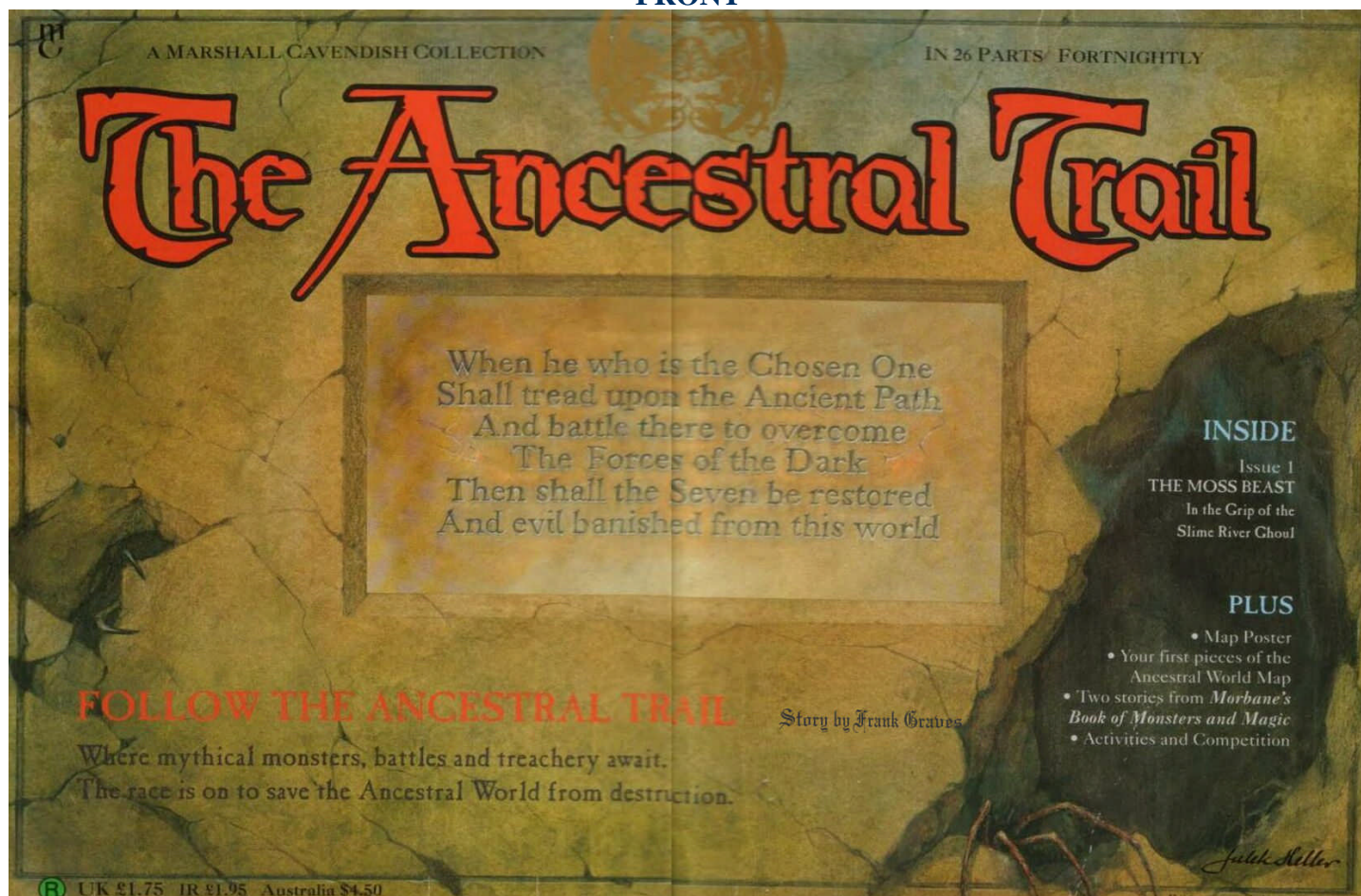


**Publishing Launch Opening Cover With Some Details on Inside (Below)
Chapter One Included Inside the Cover**

**The Ancestral Trail consists on this Opening / Introductory Chapter
and another full 52 Episodic Stories within the Published Partwork Series**

FRONT



BACK

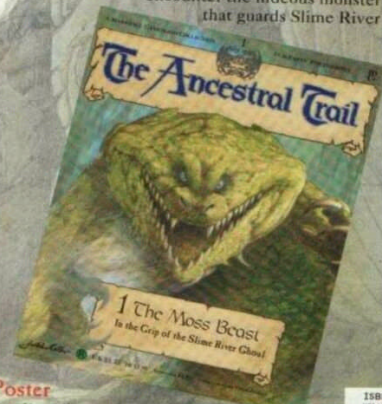
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This presentation folder FREE with Issue 1

The Ancestral World

Once landmen, common beasts, birds and fishes dwelt here
in harmony with insects, reptiles and mythical beasts.
Now this world is in mortal danger. The Evil One has come and used
his power to steal six pods from the Tree of Life. Without their Life
Force, the wise Council of Guardians has fallen.
Only when the pods are returned and the Evil One destroyed can
balance be restored in the Ancestral World.

INSIDE
Issue 1 **The Moss Beast**
Enter the Forest of Findor and
encounter the hideous monster
that guards Slime River



Map Poster
With your first pieces
of the Ancestral World puzzle map

Morbane's Book of Monsters and Magic
Two books to start your collection

Mask of Evil
Part of the Evil One's Mask is hidden
in this illustration. How quickly can you spot it?

Julek Heller

ISBN 0-7681-4035-0
9 780748 540358

The Ancestral Trail

The Ancestral World

Since the beginning of time, creatures of the air, land and water have lived in peace in the Ancestral World.

Landsmen, common beasts, birds and fishes have dwelt in harmony with insects, reptiles and mythical beasts. Ruled with fairness and wisdom by the Council of Guardians, they have known neither suffering nor the ravages of war.

Now an evil spirit has come to this land and is laying waste to all that is good. The Forces of Evil have gained ground fast and many of these peaceful creatures have been killed or have fallen under the Evil One's power.

The Life Force of the Ancestral World is almost at an end.





Forces of Good

The Chosen One

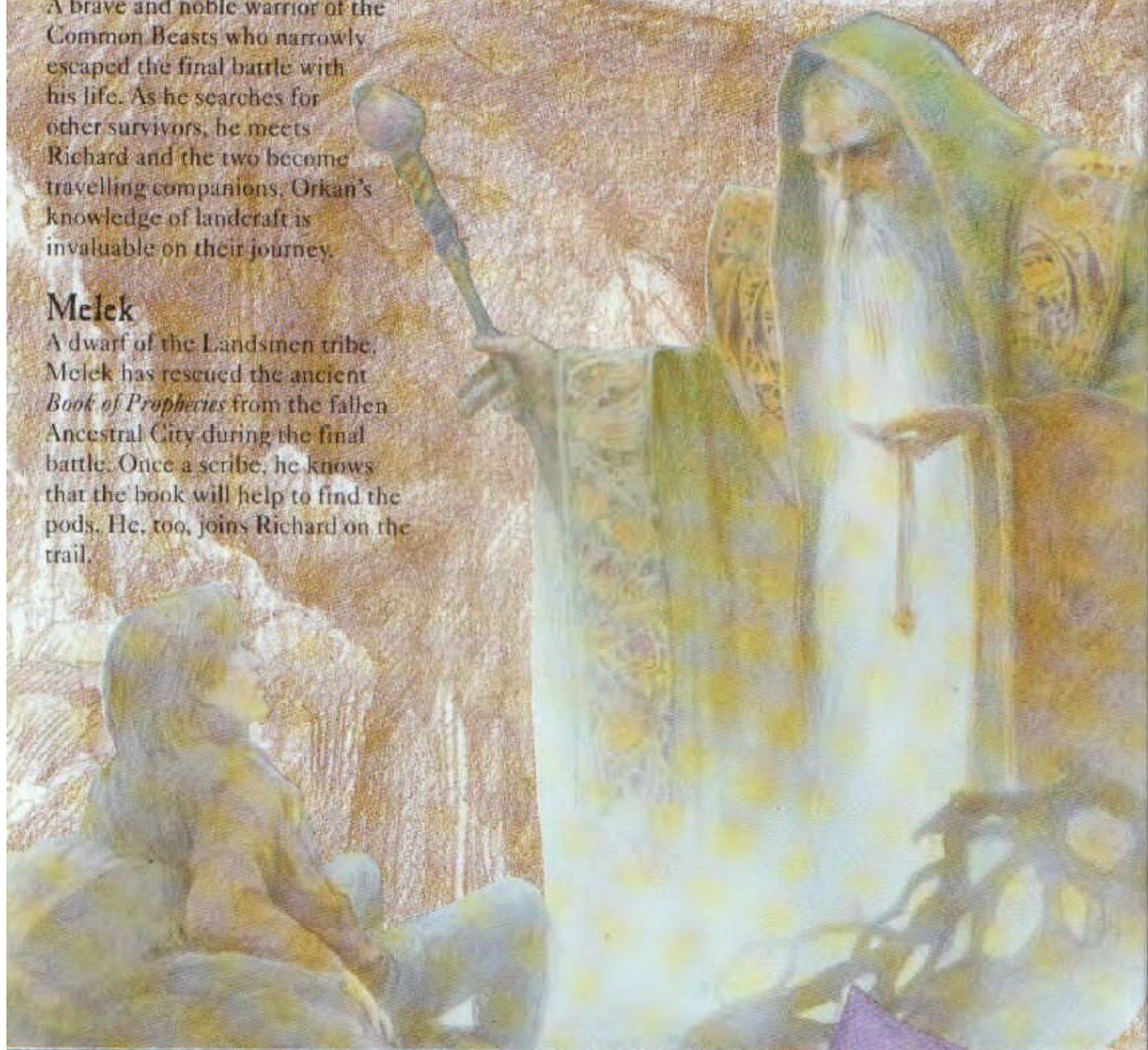
Richard, a bright, active boy, finds himself in this strange and magical world. According to ancient prophecies, Richard is the Chosen One who can overcome the power of evil. The Guardian, Golan, tells Richard he has 26 days in which to restore balance to this world. Richard's quest takes him on the **Ancestral Trail** in search of the stolen pods. Each time that he finds a pod, Richard takes on its Life Force quality and is better able to cope with the ever-increasing danger he faces.

Orkan

A brave and noble warrior of the Common Beasts who narrowly escaped the final battle with his life. As he searches for other survivors, he meets Richard and the two become travelling companions. Orkan's knowledge of landcraft is invaluable on their journey.

Melek

A dwarf of the Landsmen tribe, Melek has rescued the ancient *Book of Prophecies* from the fallen Ancestral City during the final battle. Once a scribe, he knows that the book will help to find the pods. He, too, joins Richard on the trail.





Forces of Evil

The Evil One

A master of death and destruction, the Evil One is empty of all feeling except his lust for power. Those creatures that he has not killed, he keeps under his control. As well as enslaving these poor beasts, the Evil One has conjured up many terrifying monsters to do his bidding. Watch for the sign of Evil.

Tolosh and Scorpionmen are just some of the hideous beasts conjured up by the Evil One to prevent the precious Life Force pods from being found. His Stormtroopers and Grapfrit Flying Squads continually roam the land to round up survivors of the final battle and wipe out all resistance to his reign of evil.

Scorpionmen

Guards of Sand City, these huge armoured creatures have a deadly sting in their tail.

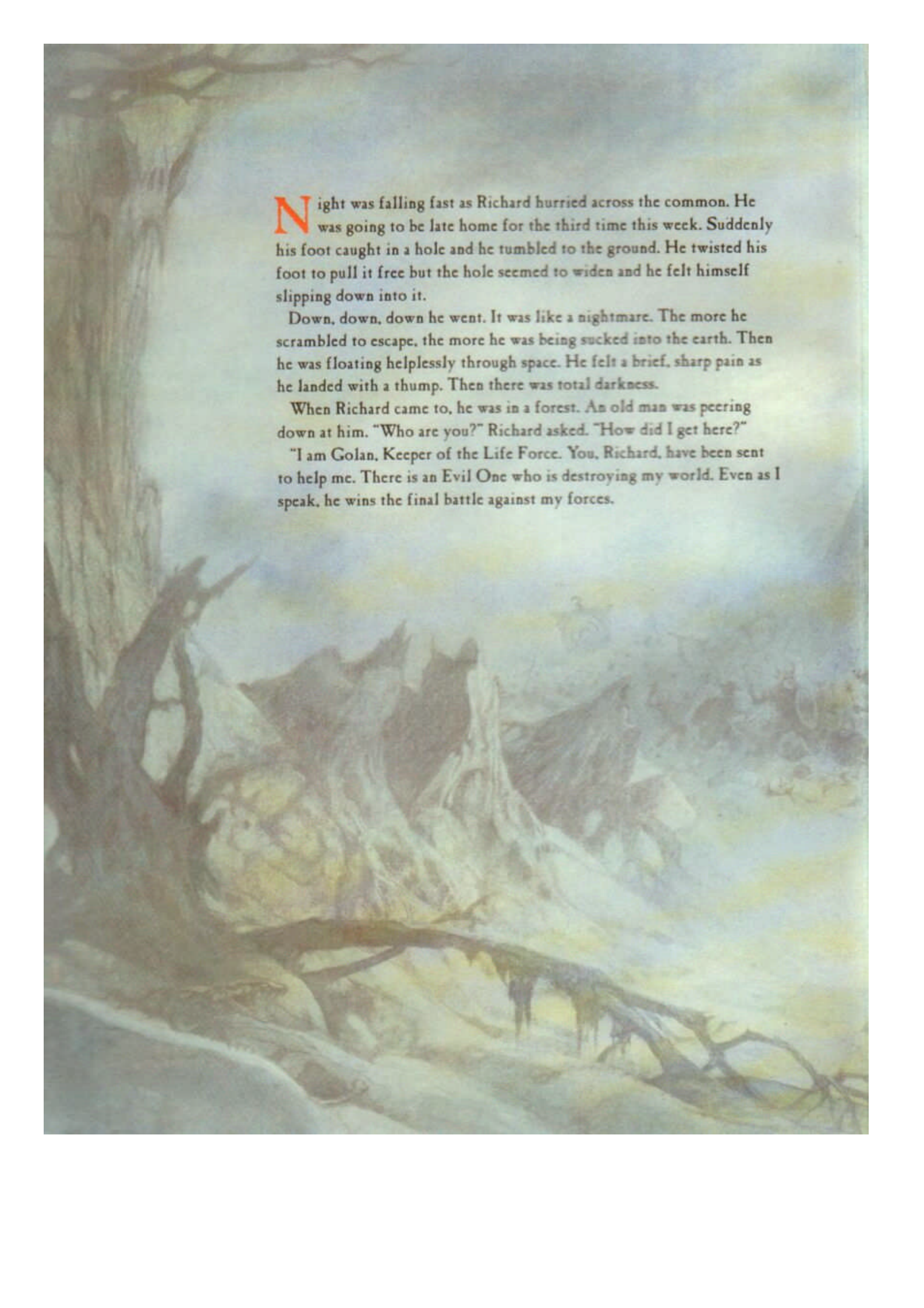


Grapfrit

Tolosh

Treacherous little doll-sized creatures that lie in wait for unsuspecting travellers. These piranha-like beasts can finish off creatures many times their size in seconds.



The background of the page is a soft, painterly illustration. It depicts a desolate, misty landscape. In the foreground, there are gnarled, leafless tree branches and rocky, uneven ground. The middle ground shows more of the rocky terrain, with a few small, indistinct figures or structures in the distance. The sky is a pale, hazy blue and white, suggesting a foggy or misty atmosphere. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and soft blues.

Night was falling fast as Richard hurried across the common. He was going to be late home for the third time this week. Suddenly his foot caught in a hole and he tumbled to the ground. He twisted his foot to pull it free but the hole seemed to widen and he felt himself slipping down into it.

Down, down, down he went. It was like a nightmare. The more he scrambled to escape, the more he was being sucked into the earth. Then he was floating helplessly through space. He felt a brief, sharp pain as he landed with a thump. Then there was total darkness.

When Richard came to, he was in a forest. An old man was peering down at him. "Who are you?" Richard asked. "How did I get here?"

"I am Golan, Keeper of the Life Force. You, Richard, have been sent to help me. There is an Evil One who is destroying my world. Even as I speak, he wins the final battle against my forces.

"Behind me stands the Tree of Life. The Evil One has stolen six of its seven Life-Force pods. Without their power, six Guardians were captured. Only my pod remains, but I am much weakened," Golan said pointing to a small, purple pod. "You must find the missing pods and return them to the Tree. Then you must destroy the Evil One."

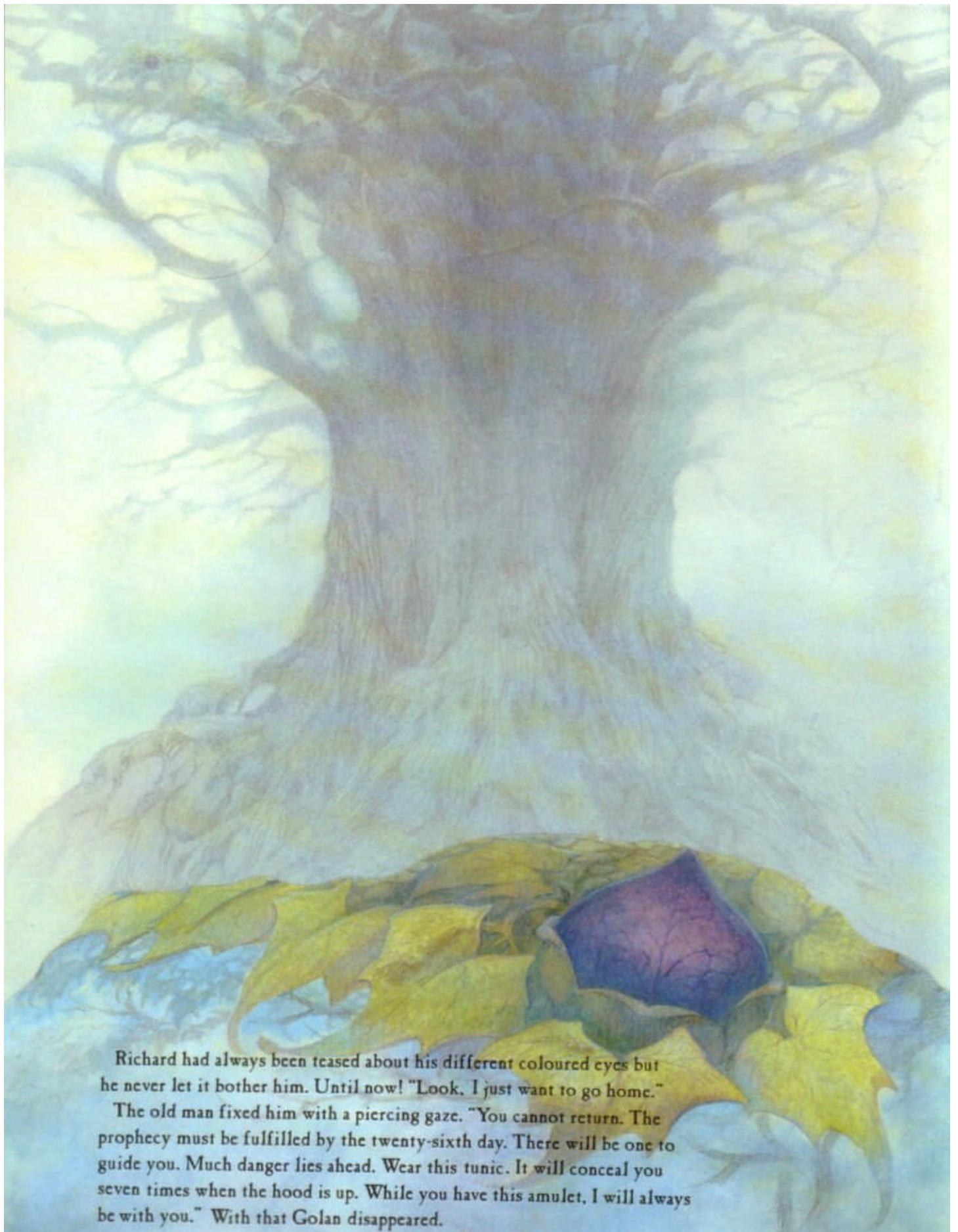
"W-why me?" Richard stammered.

"You are the Chosen One. Our prophecies foretell that the Evil One shall be destroyed by a stranger who sees in two lights."

"But I don't see in any lights," Richard told Golan.

"The grey eye sees the dark side of life, the green eye sees good. Only you can weigh the balance," Golan said.





Richard had always been teased about his different coloured eyes but he never let it bother him. Until now! "Look, I just want to go home."

The old man fixed him with a piercing gaze. "You cannot return. The prophecy must be fulfilled by the twenty-sixth day. There will be one to guide you. Much danger lies ahead. Wear this tunic. It will conceal you seven times when the hood is up. While you have this amulet, I will always be with you." With that Golan disappeared.

Feeling scared and shaken, Richard put on the tunic and started walking. The forest was dark, lit only by occasional shafts of sunlight. Suddenly a stocky, mail-clad figure jumped on to a boulder right in Richard's path. He had a pig-like face. "A-are you my guide?" Richard muttered.

The creature gave Richard a cautious grin. "I am Orkan of the common beasts," he said. "Why do you want a guide?"

Richard told Orkan about his quest to find the stolen pods. "I can help you," Orkan said. "I just escaped the final battle with my life. I am looking for other survivors, but we can travel together." Orkan moved off down the path. Still apprehensive, Richard slung his bag over his shoulder and hurried after Orkan.

[Proceed to Book One \(Click Here\)](#)