

The Raven Prince – chapter 7 – The Fissure Shields

By Martin S. Beckley

'No, it's mine!' Olivia cried, 'My Grandmother gave it to me.' 'And soon you will give it me.' Corvidae said. She turned to Edward and Nina. 'But first you two can get something for me.' Corvidae's eyes glowed bright green as she chanted, 'Dissolutio,' and the solid green mist melted away from Edward and Nina. 'You must go down to the great hall and bring me the three Fissure Shields. They are fashioned in psychoactive silver and each bear a central crystal; one blue, one red and one purple.' 'Why do you need us to get them?' Edward asked. 'Because dear child my home, Carcer castle, is now a prison. When Prudens incarcerated me here, he placed a strong spell on the doorway preventing me from leaving this chamber. He left me here to die!' Corvidae took the sword that hung over the fireplace and passed it to Edward. 'You will need this.' 'Why?' 'You might encounter a little resistance, but you will do better using the shields. To make them work you must believe that you are safe, and you will be.' Edward had to use both hands to hold up the sword. 'What kind of resistance?' he asked. Corvidae moved across to Olivia, still encased in the solid mist, and ran her white bony fingers through Olivia's hair. 'If you want your friend to stay alive you had better go now.' She waved her free hand and the door opened. Corvidae's eyes flashed green again and a blast of energy knocked Edward and Nina through the doorway. Before they could get back on their feet, the door slammed shut. 'Come on,' said Edward and they descended into the gloom of the stairwell.

The three shields were easy to find, each hung on a different wall. 'Here, you take the sword and I will get the shields,' Edward told Nina. He dragged a table under one of the shields and climbed up. It was just out of his reach. The shield appeared freshly polished and the red crystal seemed to glow from within. He fetched a chair and stood that on the table, then climbed on top. He removed the shield from the fixings. 'That was easy. It's much lighter than it looks,' he said. Metal footsteps clanked on the flagstone floor. 'Edward, we have a bit of a problem here.' 'So I hear, you've got your voice back, when did that happen?' 'Edward help me, what do I do?' Edward saw the garrison of ten armour-clad guards, each only one meter tall, marching towards Nina; their swords raised ready to attack. 'Edward, quick, what do I do?' 'Swing the sword at them,' Edward shouted as he scrambled off the table with the shield. Nina swung as hard as she could and knocked three guards to the floor. Edward skidded around Nina covering her with the shield. The remaining seven swords thundered down on the shield knocking Edward off his feet.

