

The Phargol-Horn

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e-mail: krystoniaclub@hotmail.com

The Book Club's First Meeting

The attendance was even better than they had hoped for. It was standing room only. Every desk full, not a stool vacant. If you moved you would easily brush against something. With a feeling of pride Owhey moved to the podium. This was going a long way towards building a confidence that he was known not to have much of.

The attendees were of a wide variety. Grunch took a front row seat. This could be good or very, very bad. If the meeting went well Grunch would give his seal of approval for another. If not this could be the first and only book club meeting. Grunch is known for his negative attitude. With Grunch not being one to keep his displeasure to himself Owhey hoped that he would get a fair shot at carrying out the meeting without too much disruption. It was always hard to judge Grunch's demeanor, as he almost always looked the same as if the world was about to end and he knew it was going to happen all along.

How the meeting was to be conducted had already been changed. When they saw the book Reammon sent from the Obelisk library it was obvious that they could not use it or would want to. The new plan was to allow many different books to be discussed. They would ask the attendees to talk about a book they had read and then open the floor to discussion. It was time to start the meeting.

A large show of waving hands greeted Owhey's request for who would like to be first. Before he could choose the first presenter Shadra sprang from her seat and approached the podium.

The book she wanted to discuss was called A Leadership of One. This seemed only natural when you considered the source. No one liked to be more in control than her. She probably could have written the book. Chapter by chapter she explained how she had applied the book's principles to her life. On and on and on she went. You could see a haze falling over the eyes of most of the audience. A loud thud interrupted her. In the back of the room brother Jumbly had fallen asleep and lost his balance. In the process he knocked Zanzibar off his stool who in turn fell into Groosh. Owhey put his hands over his eyes but quickly regained his composure. Turning this possible catastrophe into an opportunity he thanked Shadra for her contribution and gently nudged her towards her seat. She mumbled all the way back about not being finished. Another few minutes and everyone in the room might have fallen asleep or worse headed for the door.

The book club had learned its first lesson. There must be some rules. The first rule: each book discussion is limited to thirty minutes. Owhey knew how to handle this

without upsetting anyone. Since there are so many good books to be discussed they would limit each discussion. You could see nods of agreement throughout the room.

Gurneyfoot was the next volunteer. Gingerly he moved to the podium. It was hard to imagine the power he once yielded over the dragon society. Many a wizard had walked away a loser when it came time to renegotiate the latest delivery and transport contract.

Krystonia a Magical Past was his book. He knew this book well as the authors had interviewed him on more than one occasion. Much of the history that he spoke of he had lived. Speaking slowly and deliberately he laid out what he felt were the more important parts of the stories. History is a favorite subject to many so there was a lively discussion. As bored as they were with Shadra's book there was much involvement this time. When the time limit came there was much more that could have been discussed but a rule is a rule. To break it would have drawn Shadra's ire and nobody wanted to do that.

A surprise visitor raised his hand to be next. It was Rueggan. No one was surprised when his book was The Power of Invention written by his uncle Regallius. This was one family that was firmly planted in a field they loved. He chose not to discuss the whole book. By doing this he felt he might wet the appetite of those attending to read more on their own.

He did not come empty handed. From a bag he pulled a variety of different vials and shelves. In no time he had a full fledged chemical lab set up. He proceeded to mix, shake and go through an assortment of different procedures all the while explaining in a way that most had no idea what he was talking about. While it is great to be smart it is not so good to talk at a level your audience does not understand. Not only were there no questions at the end of his presentation but most looked downright perplexed. As he left the podium you could hear someone say 'gee wizards.'

There was time for one more person to speak and to add a new flavor to the evening Wodema was chosen. Wodema was a naturalist and herbalist. Nature was her home and a caring nature had won her many friends. The book she wanted to discuss was Love in Bloom. It was novel about two trolls. He was a great builder and she a great cook. This would seem to be a great match. The trouble was that they belonged to different clans. Their families forbid them to see each other so they met in secret. When they were discovered it only made things worse. From here on it was hard to hear the story as Flayla was sobbing uncontrollably. It did end with the two finding a way to be together and of course they lived happily ever after.

With the last book covered the meeting was adjourned. Koozl and Owhey went to the door and thanked everyone for coming. As he walked by Pultzr gave them the paws up. When it came to reading Pultzr was king.

The last to leave was Grunch. He slowly lumbered to the door. The moment of truth was at hand. As he took Owhey's hand he simply said "see you next week". The book club was alive and well.

Let's talk a little more about the web-site: www.krystonia.net

Although many of you have already visited the official Krystonia web site at www.krystonia.net I feel it is time to maybe cover it a little better. If you haven't visited please do. As a matter of fact why not do it together. It will take a little imagination but I'm sure we can pull it off.

First we are typing in www.krystonia.net in the top bar or putting the word Krystonia in the search area. If you put in the search word you will probably get many responses. Some are not helpful while others are very useful. As you scroll down you will find www.krystonia.net. Click on it and it will take you to our site. If you type in www.krystonia.net it should take you directly to our site.

Home section:

The first screen that appears will have several headings and places to go. You can go anywhere you want but I would recommend you go home. Hold on a minute, come back! Don't take things so literal. Click on the place that says home. Guess who is going to greet you? It's Kephren. Look around the room. Now try to catch his mouse. If you do you can enter a contest to win a figurine. Where can a mouse be? Maybe a warm place like a teapot. As you look around the room there are many scrolls on the walls. Some of them have pictures on them. Let's click on some and see what happens. Don't rush once you get there. Stop and have a cup of tea. Kephren will be thrilled to see you.

Club section:

Right now we are heading toward the end of the current club year but we will soon kick off the 2004 club. This year will see a new twist. When you join you will receive all the regular club benefits and your club figurine. The figurine you get has a dragon climbing out of a Toolbox. The redemption figurine, Traveling Companions, finds a small dragon climbing up the shoulder of a wizard. These two are great buddies. The twist comes in when you redeem to purchase Traveling Companions. Inside the box packaged with Traveling Companions is a bonus gift. It is a lantern that these folks find very useful. Before I get too far ahead there is still time to join the 2003 club and all the information can be found on the web site.

Introduction section:

In this part Kephren addresses a little of Krystonia's history. I'm sure you will find it interesting but be thankful that there is only so much room. He petitioned to give this column an unlimited amount of space. The minute he pointed to his large amount of scrolls and books we knew we would be in trouble. We know the web is limitless but this would surely test its boundaries.

Product section:

This section will be updated often. When a figurine is retired and sold out from the warehouse it will be removed. At that point you should check your dealers. New introductions will be added as they become available. This is usually twice a year but may vary. There is a brief story of each character with an approximate retail price. A picture is displayed of each figurine. They are not listed in a particular order so it is best if you look through the whole section.

Dealer section:

Some of our full service dealers are listed in this section. There are many other dealers throughout the U.S. and Canada and this list may be changed. If you can not find a dealer on the list you wish or can deal with please contact us at the club so we can make sure you can do your redemption or get any other figurines you would like to add to your collection.

Story section:

We have written four books. They are Chronicles of Krystonia, Krystonian Adventures, Krystonia III and the Wondrous Webb. In this section are brief summaries of each. Click on the particular book to read the capsule. For most of you seasoned collectors this will not give you information that you do not already know. For newcomers it will be a good starting point.

Company section:

Although many of you have been with us since the beginning in 1987 this might be a refresher course. And then maybe not. Some of you probably remember things that we are not thinking of. Don't be a showoff. Just read it and nod politely. We did have to keep it short.

I hope you find this helpful when you go to the site. Believe me it is much more fun than I can tell you about here. Visit it often to make sure you don't miss anything. Right now the Negotiation is pictured on it. It is a special edition that you can get for a special price. It is the first but won't be the last. I would not want you to miss out on any of them.

Next newsletter:

The Nursery

Six new spring introductions

2004 club information