

The Laundry Files – The Story So Far.

Chapter 1: The Dreamer Stirs, part 1

Intelligence was received by PISCES (Paranormal Intelligence Section for Counter intelligence, Espionage and Sabotage), a department of military intelligence, that the location of an artefact with the power to facilitate the summoning of extra-planar entities had been located near the small village of Curland in Somerset. A mission was mounted to locate and retrieve this item, which was the lost original recording of a song called White Rabbit by a psychedelic 60s band, Jefferson Airplane. It was known that this song had some connection with an extra-planar entity known as the Red Queen, and believed to be an aspect of the Outer God, Shub-Niggurath. Unfortunately, a cult known as the Order of the Black Mirror had also learned the location of the artefact and managed to arrive first at its location. A fierce gun battle ensued, during which the cultists managed to create a digital copy of the recording and escape the immediate area, leaving many of the PISCES and BLI personnel injured. One of the PISCES operatives, Joseph Wellington III, did manage to secure the actual tape.

Chapter 2: The Dreamer Stirs, part 2

The head of PISCES, John Smith, was waiting with a back-up team near Curland. Realising that the mission had gone sour, he came in with reinforcements to extract his personnel. He arrived at Curland to find all the villagers either missing or horribly butchered. While organising his people to locate and assist his first team, a senior civil servant named James Angleton arrived with documentation authorising him to replace Smith and take command of PISCES.

A villager was found hiding in a building who told of an attack by black-robed creatures who killed most of the inhabitants but took some of them away into the woods alive. The priority now for PISCES and the BLI was to locate and rescue the villagers, and also to intercept the cultists before they could escape with the recording. The black-robed figures were tracked down and proved to be Bane Spirits, very difficult to deal with until the Rift that they had come through was located and sealed. The cultists managed to evade capture.

Calling all personnel back to Curland for an in-field debriefing, Angleton informed them that PISCES had been under observation by his organisation for some time. His organisation was the Special Occult Counterintelligence and Countermeasures Executive or SO3, known to its employees as The Laundry. PISCES had been suspected for some time of having been infiltrated by a parasitical alien race called the Shan. The infiltration had now been confirmed by the capture of a live specimen controlling a senior PISCES operative and the decision had been made to take all PISCES assets and personnel into Laundry custody and, after screening for Shan infestation, to incorporate these personnel into the Laundry, effectively disbanding PISCES. At this, Smith drew a weapon and attempted to kill Angleton but was prevented by Angleton's bodyguard.

Chapter 3: The Order of the Black Mirror

It is several weeks later. The Laundry has intelligence on the location of the Order of the Black Mirror. They have also learned that a major ritual is going to take place very shortly. The objective is to disrupt this ritual and eliminate the Order.

Attempting to approach the cultists compound by stealth, the team were spotted and the compound went into lockdown, protected by armed guards and magical wards. These were eventually dealt with, and the Laundry agents gained access to the compound. The cultists, including the priest conducting the ritual, were all killed.

A number of artefacts were found in the building, chiefly a large black mirror carved from a single block of obsidian, along with a Dho-Na circuit used for controlling it. A small obsidian hand mirror was also found. This had once belonged to John Dee, an Elizabethan sorcerer, and was used to, as he believed, “communicate with angels”. It had been reported stolen from the British Museum just a week or so earlier.

While the artefacts were being examined, a figure appeared in the large obsidian mirror. This was the Red Queen. She didn't seem especially troubled by the deaths of her worshipper nor surprised to see the Laundry agents there. After a few minutes she disappeared from the mirror.

Angleton arrived to inspect the scene. When he approached the Black Mirror, one of his agents tried to prevent him. Angleton responded by incapacitating the agent temporarily, and then went over to the mirror. Suddenly the Red Queen re-appeared and pulled Angleton into the mirror. She demanded that the Laundry agents bring John Dee's mirror to her in the Dreamlands or she would ensure that Angleton reverted to being the Eater of Souls, thus enabling the return of the Great Old Ones.

While this was going on, the compound was coming under attack from a large armed group. These turned out to be Serpent People, who were members of an apocalyptic cult. They wanted all the artefacts from the compound, particularly the Black Mirror. Needless to say, the Laundry had no intention of handing them over. Instead, they went through the Mirror into the Dreamlands to rescue Angleton. While trying to locate the Red Queen, they encountered a number of native inhabitants, including Bug Men and some native humans, who directed them to the Red Queen's location.

The Red Queen no longer had Angleton – he had been stolen from her by a Serpent Man sorcerer, who planned to force him through a Gate onto the Black Pyramid. His presence as the Eater of Souls would awaken the Sleeper in the Pyramid which, in turn, would hasten the return of the Greta Old Ones. The Red Queen had no interest in seeing this happen as mortals were such fun toys as they were. She gave the team directions to the Gate, and put a little of her power into Brookwood, so that he would be able to close the Gate when they found it.

It was fully dark by the time the team reached the Gate to the Black Pyramid. Here they found Angleton, who had managed to break free from his captors and had enlisted the aid of several Bug Men. They were engaged in a gun fight with a group of Serpent People who were trying to force them through the open Gate. The Gate could only be closed from the other side, so a number of Laundry agents and BLI went through. On the far side of the gate they encountered a structure with a large eye in it, from which the sound of a very slow heartbeat could be heard, getting progressively louder as the eye slowly opened. The structure and the Dho-Na circuit were hotly defended by Serpent People but they were eventually defeated. Brookwood then used the Red Queen's power to close the gate. As soon as he did so, the eye closed and the heartbeat faded to silence.

Unfortunately, this left the party on the pyramid trapped, and now the Pyramid's guardians, thousands of undead, were closing in on the Pyramid to destroy the intruders.

Realising that there was nothing that could be done from their present location, Angleton led the remainder of his men back to the Gate through the Black Mirror, intending to mount a rescue mission for those left behind.

Meanwhile, the Red Queen makes an offer...