The Adventures of Redbridge Stanton

The
Young Redbridge Chronicles

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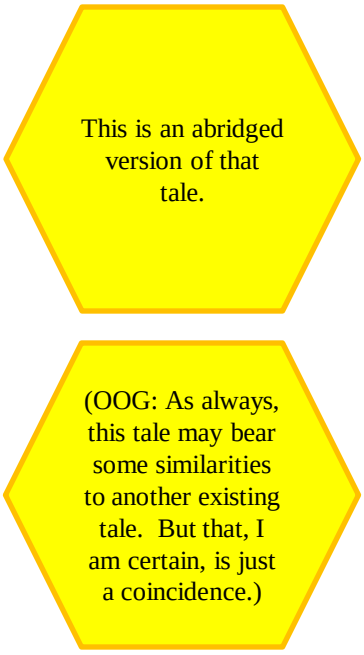
The Young Redbridge Chronicles

Redbridge Stanton and the Coffer of the Lost Codi

This book contains the fictional saga of Redbridge Stanton, famous adventurer, and his quest to obtain the Coffer of the Lost Codi.

This is an abridged version of that tale.



Redbridge Stanton and the Coffer of the Lost Codi

In 1976, adventurer Redbridge Stanton braves an ancient temple in the Barumbi Basin and retrieves a golden idol. He is confronted by his rival adventurer Remy Bellock and a tribe of the indigenous Basinlanders. Surrounded and outnumbered, Redbridge is forced to surrender the idol to Bellock and escapes aboard a waiting riverboat.

Shortly after returning to the bardic college in Briardown where he teaches history, Redbridge is interviewed by two Jacks in service to the King of Farraway. They inform him that that agents of the old and secret Illuminated Mind, in their quest for power, are looking for his old mentor Abner Crowley, who is the leading expert on the ancient Dustland city of Giringazi and possesses the headpiece of the Staff of the Sun. Redbridge deduces that the Illuminated Mind are searching Giringazi because it believed to be location of the Coffer of the Lost Codi; the Illuminated Mind believe that if they acquire it, the knowledge within will make their armies invincible. The Staff of the Sun is the key to finding the Well of Souls, a secret chamber in which the Coffer is buried.

The Jacks authorize Redbridge to recover the Coffer before the Illuminated Mind. Redbridge travels to Giringazi, only to find that Abner Crowley has died and that the headpiece is in the possession of his daughter, Muriel, Redbridge's embittered former lover. Muriel 's tavern is suddenly raided by a group of thugs commanded by Illuminated Mind agent Todd. The tavern is burned down in the ensuing fight, during which Todd burns his hand on the searing hot headpiece as he tries to grab it. Redbridge and Muriel escape with the headpiece, with Muriel declaring she will accompany Redbridge in his search for the Coffer so he can repay his debt.

They travel to the Kingdom of Gold, where they learn from Jones's friend Sully, a skilled excavator, that Bellock and the Illuminated Mind, led by Lord Dietrich, is digging for the Well of Souls with a replica of the headpiece modeled after the scar on Todd's hand. In a bazaar, Illuminated Mind operatives attempt to kidnap Muriel; as Redbridge pursues, it appears that she dies in an explosion. While deciphering the markings on the headpiece, Redbridge and Sully realize that the Illuminated Mind has miscalculated the location of the Well of Souls. Using this to their advantage, they infiltrate the Illuminated Mind's dig and use the Staff of the Sun to uncover the Well of Souls, which is filled with snakes. Redbridge fends off the snakes despite his fear of them and acquires the Coffer of the Lost Codi, but Bellock, Dietrich, and the Illuminated Mind arrive to take it. The Illuminated Mind toss Muriel into the well with Redbridge and seal them in, but they manage to escape. After a fistfight with an Illuminated Mind Man of Science, blowing up a boat loaded with gadgets on the

river, and chasing down a wagon on camel back, Redbridge takes back the Coffer before it can be shipped to destinations unknown.

Redbridge and Muriel leave the Kingdom of Gold to escort the Coffer to Farraway aboard a ship. The next morning, their boat is boarded by Bellock, Dietrich, and the Illuminated Mind, who once again steal the Coffer and kidnap Muriel. Redbridge stows away on their vessel and follows them to an isolated island in the Central Wikapapuji, where Bellock plans to inspect the contents of the Coffer before presenting it to the secret Illuminated Leader. Redbridge reveals himself and threatens to destroy the Coffer with a stolen Staff of Fire, but Bellock calls his bluff, knowing Redbridge cannot bear to destroy such an important historical artifact. Redbridge surrenders and is tied to a post with Muriel as Bellock performs a ceremonial opening of the Coffer, which appears to contain nothing but sand. Suddenly, the spirits of Lost Patrons who wrote the Lost Codi emerge from the Coffer, floating chaotically about the assembly. Aware of the supernatural danger of looking at the opened Coffer, Redbridge warns Muriel to keep her eyes shut. As Bellock and the others look on in astonishment, one of the Lost Patrons suddenly transforms into an Anathema Demon, terrifying the three leaders gathered around the Coffer. A vortex of pure doubt forms above the opened Coffer, which proceeds to shoot blasts of dark energy at each of the Illuminated Mind, killing them all. The power of doubt causes Dietrich's head to implode, Todd's head to melt, and Bellock's head to explode in a pillar of flame. The power then engulfs the remains of the doomed assembly, save for Redbridge and Muriel, blasting the Coffer's lid high into the air before dropping back down onto the Coffer. Redbridge and Muriel, having been freed from their bonds by the chaotic swirls of energy, embrace as they gaze bewildered at the now-closed Coffer.

Back in Farraway City, the Jacks tell a suspicious Redbridge that the Coffer "is someplace safe" to be studied by "the wisest of scholars". The Coffer is permanently stored in a giant facility among countless similar crates in the Laketower.