

## Episode Four – Amber Falls

*Session 4's notes were very incomplete, and I have only limited ones that I wrote up well after the session. However, knowing where Session 3 ended and where Session 5 began, and using the notes I do have, I can give a reasonable account of what happened.*

Once Kyle left for Amber, Corin spent a short time observing the Unicorn, to see if there was any chance of it recovering by itself, but after a few minutes it was clear that it was not going to move. In a moment of either extreme madness or inspiration, Corin set foot on the Pattern. There was no resistance, and no destruction, so she began walking it. She completed the Pattern and reach the Unicorn and teleported away into Shadow.

Corin used her power to care for the Unicorn, but is at a loss as to what to do. The Unicorn's lethargy is complete, and it can barely open its eyes. But before long Corin feels a disturbance in Shadow, probably across all local Shadow, and she feels the coming of a **real** power into her locale. She sets up defences and waits, and then the Serpent slides into view. It arrives and towers up, high over Corin, clearly cautious and aware of the defences Corin has set up. The Serpent cuts right to the chase, and demands the Unicorn from Corin, whilst never taking its eye off the Unicorn itself, which has now begun to shake uncontrollably. Corin refuses, causing the Serpent to momentarily look Corin's way, with an expression of obvious disbelief (as far as a snake can have such an expression). Corin takes advantage of this moment of hesitation and splits Shadow between her and the Serpent, pilling on Shadow after Shadow after Shadow between them, to put as much distance as possible between the Serpent and the Unicorn. Corin sweeps up the Unicorn and begins a hell-run like she has never attempted. With her betrayal of the Serpent, any return to the Courts is currently out of the question, so she Trumps Kyle and returns to Amber.

Kyle has just returned to Amber, having put Random in the care of his very best physicians back on his Shadow world, when Corin's Trump contact comes. Bringing her through they can see that the clear up of Amber has already begun. No one appears to know what to do about the Unicorn, even Bleys (possibly the most learned of the family present), so they make the small beast as comfortable as they can and leave it under constant guard.

After several days, the clear up is mostly complete, but it becomes clear that Annael has far from given up, as reports come in of another, but smaller, army approaching. A land force has attacked outlying settlements, but there are worrying reports of air attacks. It soon become clear what this means, as Annael small land force and his air force of Blood Droids attack Castle Amber. None seem to be able to stand against the Blood Droids, so the family Amber get involved. But the Blood Droids are powerful and so very strong, and their weapons are like none seen since the battle, years ago, when Eric of Amber died, and

Corwin arrived with his guns from Avalon. Casualties are many. Bleys is cut down early in the battle by machine gun fire across his chest and he drops to the ground, dead. Gerard manages to enter hand to hand combat with one of the Droids, which he bears to the ground, but the Pattern Blood empowered metal and gears are too much even for Gerard. He is lifted from the ground, slammed onto a nearby rock, which he rolls off in pain, and then his back is stamped on by a robot. Gerard does not move again. Thinking less of the battle and more about what Bleys might leave on the battle field should a retreat be necessary, Joshua arrives at Bleys' body, at the same time as Caine. Eying each other, they both grab a ring from Bleys, both of which happen to be a Spikard, but Caine is momentarily delayed and gets wounded by a nearby robot. The Amber family and friends gather those wounded who can still be saved and flee the scene via Trump, preventing any pursuit by the robots. Kyle takes control of the Trumps in the area and send everyone through to his Shadow, where Gerard is treated immediately and placed in a drug induced coma, and where everyone else gets their wounds treated. Kyle then Trumps quickly to Castle Amber, rushes to the room where the Unicorn is being cared for, gathers it up and returns to his personal Shadow.