



THE COLLECTOR'S COMPANION

The Lantern & the Unfinished Map

Theaterland / Collector's Edition



Four journeys. A cabinet of creatures.
The maps we carried out of the wilds.



A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR INVESTIGATOR

Open the story shelf first



Brave explorers, the box is lighter than the country it remembers. We have brought out four journals, a drawer of unfinished maps, and a small cabinet of creatures whose habits were easier to recognize than to explain to a receiving desk.

Begin with the journals. They tell why we entered, what we found, and how the search for answers became a search for a way home. The extra maps are here for anyone who wants to look more closely. You can understand the journey without learning every route number.

The fox has sorted the notebooks. The dodo has inspected the corners of the box. I have left space between the books and the lid. A collector's edition should have room for the life that comes after the last page.

The investigator and companions belong to the adventure. The record beneath it remains separate and checkable.



THE STORY SHELF / READ IN THIS ORDER

Four journals, one long road

I / Five Doors, One Reason

August 5-9. We learn why a single need for safety and understanding sent us to several different entrances. Nine illustrated pages.

II / The Questions They Inherited

September 9-18. We carry focused questions through the gates, follow messages and records, and look for other lanterns that might help. Twelve illustrated pages.

III / The Replies Arrived in Costume

September 18-30. Answers change the map. Some connections become visible, others remain uncertain, and an honest explorer changes the story when the record changes. Twelve illustrated pages.

IV / The Child Beyond the Paper Walls

October 1-25. A signal changes the expedition. We try to find a way home, learn the limits of the response, preserve what matters, and retreat from the wilds. Thirteen illustrated pages.

These are the latest narrative reading editions. Each stops at its own historical boundary, leaving later discoveries to later books.

The CPS cave journal is excluded from this collector's set.



THE MAP DRAWER / TWO COLLECTOR'S EXTRAS

The Paths Left Unfollowed



At the edge of the wilds, the map still had roads on it. Some had carried our footsteps for months. Some had brought replies. Others ended at a closed door, an incomplete explanation, or a question we had not yet resolved.

The PLSAS tracker and active field guide preserve those routes in a dated collector's snapshot. The title names the work left unfinished as the expedition turned toward home. It does not pretend that every request went unanswered or that we never tried the paths already behind us.

The gilded frame is new. The record inside it keeps its limits. Private descriptions have been shortened, and an uncertain status stays uncertain. The full adult source ledger remains available outside the reading box.

PLSAS is Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, ISD 719. The two parts together preserve the tracker projection.



The cabinet of creatures

The complete badge guide introduces the established file fauna and their identification rules. Its retained September edition keeps the look and language of the original collecting system.

The Beast Compendium records the earlier field sightings. Those are historical observations, with their original dates and limits. A creature in a sketch does not become an award simply because it has found a comfortable page.

The Beast of a Thousand Tails follows the growing bundles of qualifying requests. Its original guide is included with the updated rule note on the next page.

The Chronomancer Owl joins the cabinet in its October addendum. The current catalog records eleven pattern-fauna definitions, five visible sightings, and one recorded pattern award. Those are different kinds of count; they should never be added together as though they describe the same thing.

The encounter cards occupy their own pocket. Their costumes and powers are fictional ways to describe professional process encounters. They are not portraits of a person's private life or findings of wrongdoing.

Retained guides are dated editions. The keeper's note explains later rule changes without rewriting their history.

The keeper's current rule note

The earlier sightings stay earlier. The August compendium's four sightings and zero pattern awards describe its own frontier. The October Owl addendum records a later development. This boxed set does not create or re-award any creature.

Thousand Tails uses weighted points. Since September 15, a separate qualifying request carries 0.5 to 3 supported points. The rule weighs the supported stakes of the required response; louder language earns nothing. Duplicates and resends do not add new qualifying points.

A beast appears at the cumulative ten-point thresholds within the governed agency and time slot. For each agency, every fifth lifetime beast evolves. Historical contributions keep their original value; they are not rescored to make the old shelf look fuller.

The established America/Chicago slots remain: Monday 7:00 a.m. begins the week; 4:30 p.m. marks the weekday boundaries; Friday 4:30 p.m. to Monday 7:00 a.m. is the weekend slot. The exact ledger and rule file control the accounting.

The original guide's first Ministry beast was later verified sent on September 14. Its old pending wording remains part of that edition's history. No resend is implied. Only an otherwise authorized branded agency send may carry a beast; an official complaint does not.

These are collecting-system rules and retained ledger facts, not conclusions about the merits of a request.



THE COLLECTOR'S FIELD OATH

Leave room beyond the lid



I have kept the unanswered questions because they mattered. I have kept the changed answers because they mattered too. A map that only remembers the roads we expected would be a poor companion for the next traveller.

The records show effort, decisions, disagreements and discoveries. The journals give them a shape a reader can follow. Neither gives us permission to invent the child's words or turn uncertainty into a secret plan.

So the box closes with a lamp, not a command. The child is free to read, pause, disagree, or leave a book unopened. The work belongs to the adults. The hope behind it has always been larger than the paperwork.

Keep the lantern. Let the life beyond the expedition grow.