

EOIN COLFER

THE
ARTEMIS
FOWL
FILES

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE BEST-SELLING SERIES



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COLFER

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ARTEMIS
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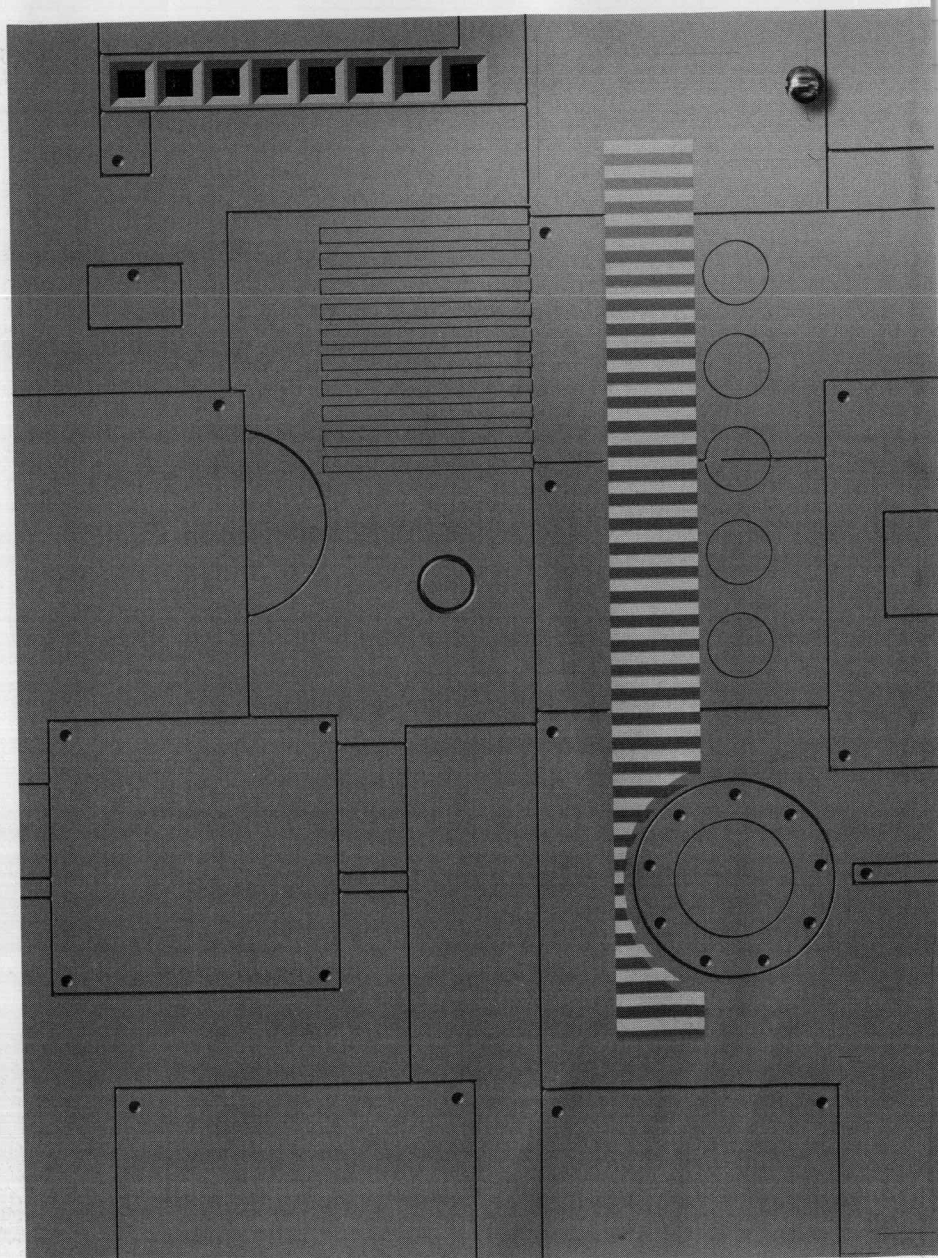
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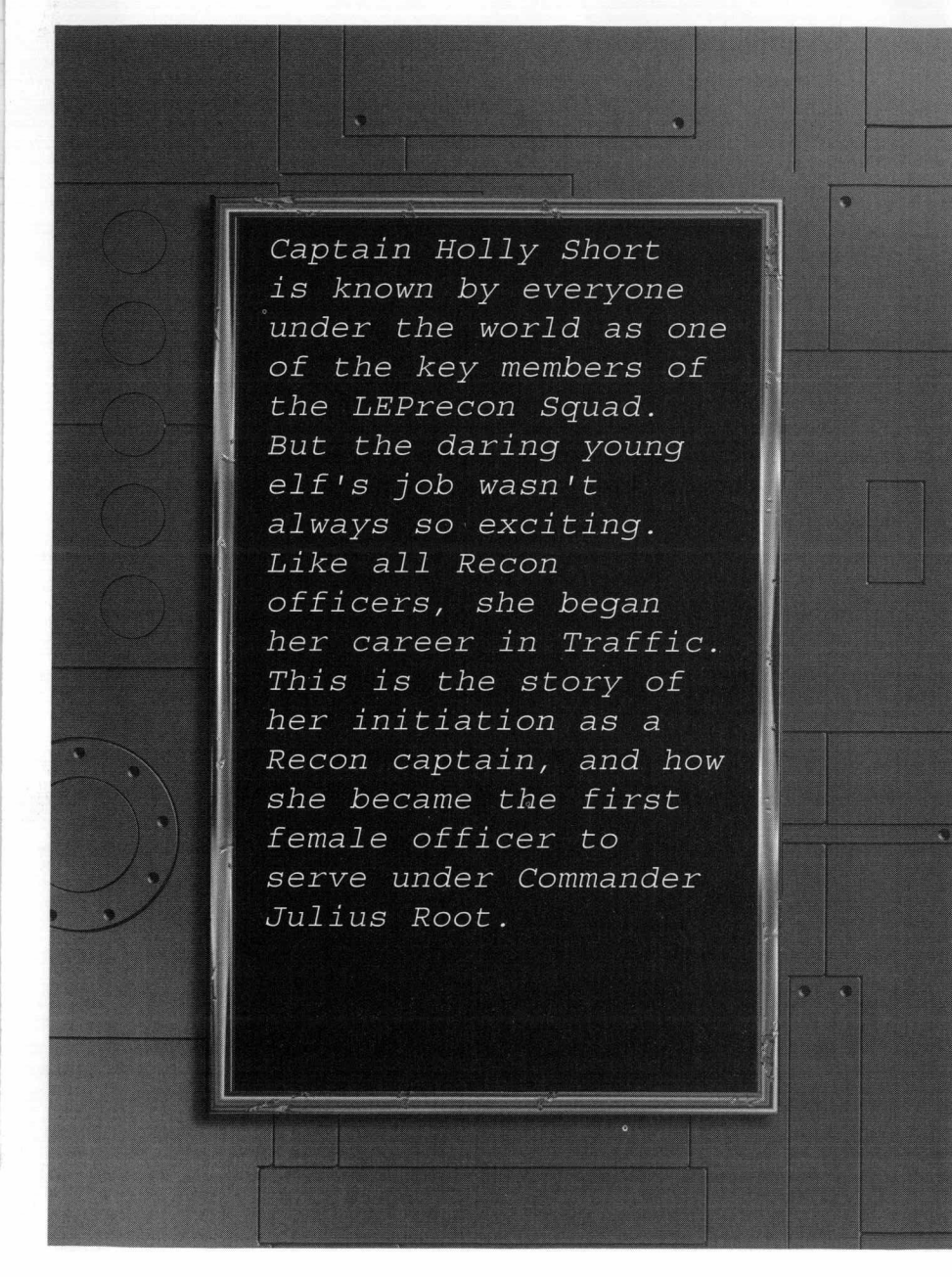


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For Finn, Artemis's best friend



Captain Holly Short
is known by everyone
under the world as one
of the key members of
the LEPrecon Squad.
But the daring young
elf's job wasn't
always so exciting.
Like all Recon
officers, she began
her career in Traffic.
This is the story of
her initiation as a
Recon captain, and how
she became the first
female officer to
serve under Commander
Julius Root.



LEPRECON

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gifts. This particular serum is concocted from equal parts ground ping-ping flower and cobra venom. Not lethal in small doses, but quite an effective sedative."

Fear was piercing the LEP officer's daze now, like a hot poker through snow. "Who are you?"

A child's scowl twisted the stranger's ancient face.

"You may address me as Captain. Don't you know me, Major? From before today? Cast your mind back to your first years in the LEP. Centuries ago, I know, but try. The fairy People often think that they can forget me completely. But I'm never far away, not really."

The major wanted to say, *Yes, I know you*, but something told him that lying would be even more dangerous than telling the truth. And the truth was that he couldn't remember seeing this old elf before in his life. Not until today, when he had assaulted him on the docks. Evergreen had tracked a runaway-gnome signal to this hut, and the next thing he knew this old elf had stung him with a



“Julius robbed me of Haven,” raved the captain. “Evicted me like a common traitor. Exiled me to this foul cesspool of the human world. When he brings the next corporal for initiation, I will be waiting—along with a few old friends. If we cannot have Haven, then we will have our revenge.”

The captain stopped his rant. He had said too much already and time was against him. He must finish this.

“You came here to search for a missing gnome: there was no gnome. We manipulated the satellite images to trap an LEP officer. I have waited two years for Julius to send a major.”

It made sense. Only a major would know the locations of LEP initiations.

“And now that I have you in my clutches, you will tell me what I need to know.”

The elderly elf pinched Major Evergreen's nose until he was forced to draw breath through his mouth. In a flash the captain jammed the mesh cage between Evergreen's teeth and flipped the gate. The silver spider was down the young elf's gullet in a shining blur.

The captain tossed the cage to one side. “Now, Major,” he said. “You are dead.”

Evergreen spasmed as the silver spider’s claws went to work on the lining of his stomach.

“That feels bad: internal injuries always hurt the most,” commented the old elf. “But your magic will heal you for a while. In minutes, however, your power will dry up, and then my little pet will claw her way out.”

Evergreen knew it was true. The spider was a Tunnel Blue. The creature actually used its claws as teeth, pulping its meat before sucking it between its gums. Its favorite method of destruction was from the inside. A nest of these little monsters could take down a troll. One was more than enough to kill an elf.

“I can help you,” said the captain. “If you agree to help me.”

Evergreen gasped in pain. Whenever the spider clawed him, the magic sealed the wound, but already the healing was slowing.

“No. You’ll get nothing from me.”

