

Opening extract from

Artemis Fowl: Time Paradox

Written by

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Hack into the wicked world of Artemis Fowl

Artemisfowl.co.uk

'YOU ARE IN LUCK, ARTEMIS,' said demon N^o1, wiggling his eight fingers. 'I did a module on time travel last week on the warlock diploma course I'm taking.'

'Small class, I bet,' commented Artemis drily.

'Just me,' admitted N^o1. 'And Qwan, of course, my teacher. Apparently, I am the most powerful warlock Qwan has ever seen.'

'Good,' said Artemis. 'Then transporting us all into the past shouldn't pose any problems for you.'

Foaly had projected himself on to five of Artemis's various monitors. 'All?' spluttered each image. 'All! You can't take Number One with you.'

Artemis was not in the mood for argument. 'I need him, Foaly. End of discussion.'



Foaly looked as though his head would bulge through the screens. ‘It is most certainly not end of discussion. Holly is an adult – she can make her own decision – but Number One is little more than a child. You cannot jeopardize him on one of your missions. A lot of hopes rest on that little demon. The future of the fairy families.’

‘None of us will have a future if Number One doesn’t take us to the past.’

‘Please stop,’ said N^O1. ‘All this arguing is making me dizzy. There is no time for it.’

Artemis’s face was red, but he held his tongue, unlike Foaly who kept shouting, but at least he muted the screens.

‘Foaly needs to vent,’ explained Holly, ‘or he gets headaches.’

The three waited until the centaur calmed himself, then N^O1 spoke: ‘In any event, I cannot go with you, Artemis. That’s not how it works.’

‘But you transported us from Limbo.’

‘Qwan did that. He is a master; I am but an apprentice. And, anyway, we had no desire to go back to Limbo. If you wish to return here, I need to stay as a marker.’

‘Explain,’ said Artemis tersely.

N^O1 spread his arms wide. ‘I am a beacon,’ he declared. ‘A



that could be a problem.’

N⁰1 smirked. ‘It could be a problem. Unless . . .’

A spiral rune on the demon’s forehead glowed red and spun like a Catherine wheel. It was hypnotizing.

‘Wow,’ said Holly. ‘That’s really . . .’

Then a pulsing beam of crimson magic blasted from the centre of the rune, enveloping Holly in a cocoon of light.

‘Now you’re full to the brim,’ said N⁰1, bowing low. ‘Thank you very much. I’m here all week.’

‘Wow,’ said Holly again, when her fingertips stopped buzzing. ‘That’s a neat trick.’

‘More than you know. That’s my own signature magic. The Number One cocktail if you like, which makes you a beacon in the time stream.’

Artemis shuffled self-consciously. ‘How long do we have?’

N⁰1 gazed at the ceiling while he ran some calculations. ‘Three hundred years . . . No, no, three days. Holly can bring you back at any point before that simply by making herself open to my power, but after three days the link grows weaker.’

‘Is there anything we can do about that?’

‘Let’s face facts: all-powerful I may be, but I’m a novice at



this, so taking off from where you landed is vital. If you go beyond three days, then you are stuck in the past.'

'If we do get separated, couldn't Holly come back and get me?' wondered Artemis.

‘No, she could not,’ said N^O1. ‘It would be impossible for you to meet at a point neither of you had experienced. This is a one-time deal only. It will take everything I have to hold you together for this trip. Any more and your atoms would lose their memory and simply forget where it is they are supposed to go. Both of you have already been in the time stream twice. I can transport objects forever and a day, but living beings break down without a warlock in the stream to shield them.’

Holly asked a very pertinent question. ‘Number One, have you done this before?’

‘Of course,’ said the demon. ‘Several times. On a simulator. And two of the holograms survived.’

Artemis's determination barely flickered. 'Two survived. The last two?'

‘No,’ admitted N^O1. ‘The last two were trapped in a time wormhole and consumed by quantum zombies.’

Holly felt her pointy ears tingle, always a bad sign. Elfin ears could sense danger.



were pure crimson.

‘OK, ready to go,’ he said conversationally.

Artemis blinked. He was expecting N⁰1’s voice of power to be a bit less squeaky.

‘Are you sure?’

N⁰1 groaned. ‘I know. It’s the voice, isn’t it? Not enough gravel. Qwan says I should go for less airy and more fairy. Trust me, I’m ready. Now hold hands.’

Artemis and Holly stood together in their underwear, gingerly locking fingers. They had crossed space and time together, weathered rebellions and tangled with demented despots. Coughed blood, lost digits, inhaled dwarf fumes and swapped eyeballs, yet they found holding hands awkward.

N⁰1 knew he shouldn’t, but he couldn’t resist a parting crack.

‘I now pronounce you . . .’

Neither hand-holder was amused, but before they had time to do more than scowl, twin bolts of red energy crackled from N⁰1’s eyes, blasting his friends into the time stream.

‘Man and elf,’ he said, finishing his joke, then chuckling delightedly.



On screen, Foaly snorted. ‘I’m guessing you’re laughing to cover your anxiety?’

‘Exactly right,’ said N^o1.

Where Artemis and Holly had been standing there were flickering copies of them both, mouths open to object to N^o1’s comment.

‘That really freaks me out, the ghost images. It’s like they’re dead.’

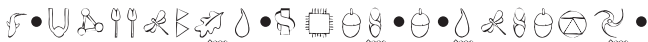
Foaly shuddered. ‘Don’t say that. If they’re dead, we all could be. How soon will they be back?’

‘In about ten seconds.’

‘And if they’re not back in ten seconds?’

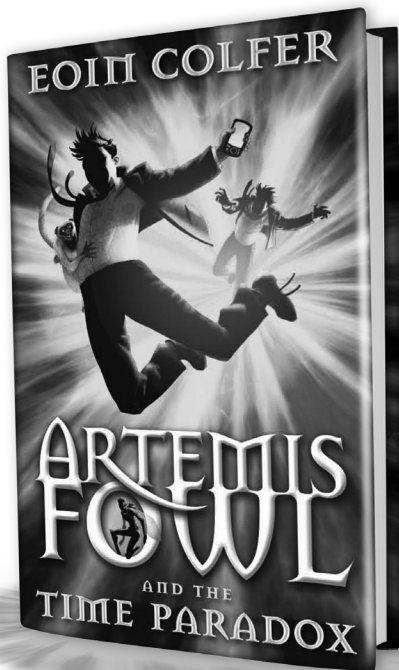
‘Then never.’

Foaly started counting.



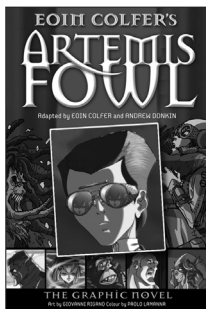
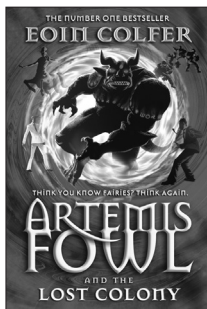
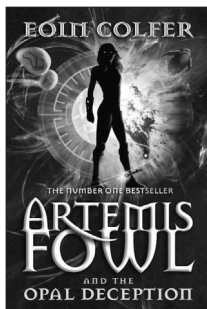
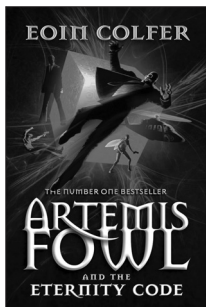
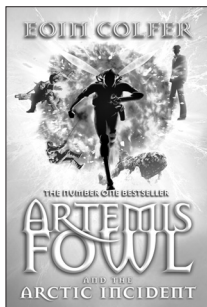
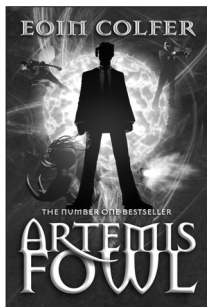
Will Artemis and Holly make it into
the past and back in one piece?

Why is Artemis so desperate to risk
their lives to go back in time?



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DISCOVER
ARTEMIS FOWL'S
FULL CRIMINAL RECORD.

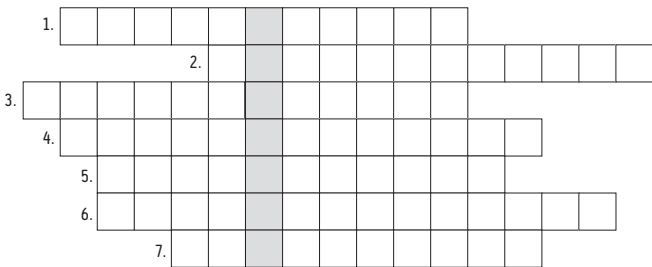


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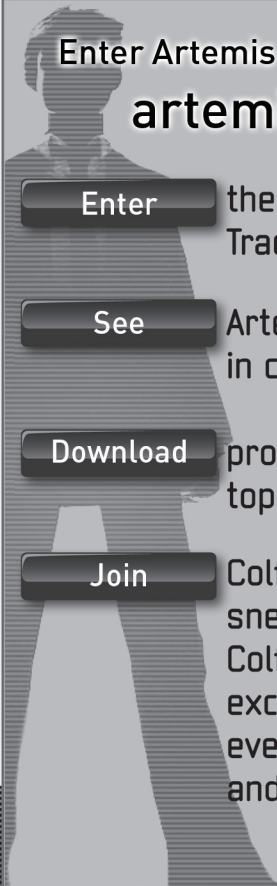
FOWL DECODING

Unscramble these Artemis Fowl book titles and see what name they reveal.

1. ETIM XDAPAOR
2. GCARPIH VENOL
3. IRETYENT DCOE
4. LOPA TEDCEOINP
5. IRASEMT OFLW
6. ICRCTA DINENCTI
7. SOTL NOLCOY



Answers: 1: Time Paradox, 2: Graphic Novel, 3: Eternity Code, 4: Opal Deception, 5: Artemis Fowl, 6: Arctic Incident, 7: Lost Colony, Name: ARTEMIS



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