

## ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

Lara has become darker, harder and less tolerant since Egypt. She is on the run, framed for the murder of **Von Croy** in Paris. Her one-time mentor was murdered after being asked to track down one of five 14<sup>th</sup> century **Obscura Paintings** by a sinister character named **Eckhardt**.

Lara gets drawn into the dark parallel world of a serial killer – the **Monstrum**, protected by a shadowy group called **The Cabal** who run operations in Paris and virtually control Prague. The mood is dark, sinister, dominated by shadows.

In her struggle to unravel the trail left by Von Croy Lara becomes involved in underworld deals, grotesque murders, the dark side of an advanced form of alchemy and a history of blood, betrayal and vengeance spanning hundreds of years. She also encounters a kindred spirit in **Kurtis Trent**, a hardened adventurer like herself on the trail of Eckhardt, who is in fact the Monstrum.

The trail leads Lara to the Cabal's stronghold in Prague - the **Strahov Complex**. Hidden away in subterranean levels Eckhardt has been working on the means to re-establish an ancient dying race, **The Nephilim**, reputed to be the hybrid descendants of humans and angels. Eckhardt's megalomaniac plan is to breed them back into existence and turn their powers to his own advantage.

Eckhardt is the most powerful black alchemist in history. He can only be restrained and defeated by using three objects of power – the **Periapt Shards**, believed to be a legacy of the mysterious Biblical **Nephilim** race. Lara's new ally **Kurtis Trent** has two of these Shards and, motivated by revenge for Eckhardt killing his father, is trying to locate the third and last Shard. If the three Shards can be reunited Eckhardt can be reincarcerated, if not destroyed in the fortress-prison he escaped from in 1945.

Lara and Kurtis follow the trail of the last Obscura Painting to Prague. Here Eckhardt is protected by **The Cabal** inside **The Strahov Complex**. Using a bizarre hybrid of alchemy and hi-tech sciences he has been trying to reawaken one of **The Nephilim** as part of his plan to breed the neo-Nephilim race with himself as its supreme leader.

Working together Lara and Kurtis have to fight their way through the Cabal to get at Eckhardt and stop his apocalyptic insanity. Lara's natural ingenuity and skills coupled with Kurtis' occult abilities are their main resource. But Lara also learns something of the Alchemic principles which are the foundation stone of Eckhardt's awesome powers. In the final face off she must turn them against the Black Alchemist if there is to be a chance of defeating him.

Most of the Cabal are effectively destroyed even though several of them were not quite what they seemed. Eckhardt is killed, along with Kurtis. But questions remain. Has the danger truly been averted or has Lara unwittingly cleared the way for an even greater threat to the future of the human race? Has the evil been destroyed or merely rendered dormant - again? And have we really seen the last of Kurtis?