

DARK MAN

THE DARK RIVER

PETER LANCETT



 **SADDLEBACK**
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Chapter One: Something Beneath the Waters

In the bad part of the city, in a crumbling room,
a girl lies on a bed.

It is night, and the girl is sleeping.

The girl is Josie, and she can never smile.

But she can dream.



As Josie sleeps, the Dark Man stands at the edge of the river.

It is dark, and the rain is lashing down.

On the far side, the nice part of the city is brightly lit.

The Dark Man looks down and sees the rain splashing hard on the water.

The Dark Man has been to this place before.

Last time, Josie was with him.

Back then, she showed him where to find the Dark Bridge.

A breeze blows across the water.

For a moment, the Dark Man seems to see
Josie's face reflected on the surface.



The Dark Bridge is gone, but the river can still do harm.

There is something beneath the waters of the river that he must find.

Seven gold coins, made from the same piece of gold as the magical Golden Cup.

This gold is special.

Pieces of it will always try to come together,
to make one solid ingot again.

The Old Man said that the coins can help
them find the Golden Cup.



The Dark Man takes a silver star and chain
from his pocket.

He puts it around his neck.

The Old Man said that the silver star will give
him power to see in the dark.

It will be pitch black beneath the water.

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THE DARK GARDEN

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Chapter One: Time to Die

The world seems upside down.

The Dark Man has been captured, but he remains calm.

A rope is tied around his ankle.

He hangs by this rope, which is suspended from the branch of an ancient tree.

The tree stands in the middle of a lawn, in a tidy garden, bathed by silver moonlight.

Silver handcuffs tightly bind his wrists behind his back.

The garden belongs to a house far from the city.





A dark figure comes to stand before him.

Slowly, the figure lowers itself to sit on the grass.

It is a Shadow Master.

“Why have you come here?” the Shadow Master asks.

“To put a stop to your plans,” the Dark Man answers.

The Shadow Master shakes his head. “We are too strong and too many,” he says.

The Dark Man does not reply.

After a minute, the Shadow Master speaks again.

“We have been watching you,” he says.

“You have the power to work in the day and the night. Why do you oppose us?”

“Because people deserve to live in freedom,” the Dark Man says. “You want to make slaves of them.”

