

# Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story *Unremembered Loss*.

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## A Newsy Newsletter

### Novel

My editor has scheduled the last week of this month to do the second round of edits on *The Rise and Fall of the Human Race*. I have to admit I'm excited and nervous (read "dreading") getting my manuscript back. I'm hoping that it won't be as daunting as the first set (read "I'm hoping it's two months of work instead of two years").

Make sure to check in next month for the results and my schedule to get to the third round.

### Stones

As I mentioned in my January newsletter, I've started some laser cutting project. I received my first commission - two laser cut agate stones for \$20 each. I really like the way they came out and my client was thrilled with them.

In the process, I purchased some agate slices in bulk. I now have 90 small pieces, 50 medium pieces and 30 large pieces. I've spent some time researching how to put them online - looking at fiverr.com, etsy.com and ebay.com.

There are lots of people selling single pieces of agate and pieces in bulk, but almost no one selling etched stone, so either there is no market or it is an untapped market.

I'm hoping on untapped.

### Laser Cutting

Also on the laser cutting front, I've created a double-nine sized set of dominoes. It was a bit tricky making sure I got every combination of the ten pictures I used, but I figured out the pattern and can now make a new set in under an hour. Surprisingly, at least to me, it takes almost an hour of cutting to etch and cut out all of the dominoes (50 of them). It takes another seven minutes of cutting to make a box. The good news is I don't have to stand around and wait - I just start the cutter and come back in an hour.

If you want to keep track of my laser cutting projects you can follow me on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/douglas.clarke.161> to see my projects and other things I post or on Instagram: by searching for Altivecer or #lasercut.

### Audio Play

I tried to put together an audio play a couple years ago. It was a group project and it fell apart because of the differences in the quality of the writing and difficulties in organizing a diverse group of people.

In the wake of that project, I've started a new audio play project. This one has me as the only writer - but my daughter, Emma, might join in.

I met a young artist - young woman in art school - outside of Comic-con last July and I've contracted with her to create some art for the project - more about that in a second.

Once I'm ready to start recording, I'll be back in group mode - since I'll need a bunch of different voices. I'm not sure if I want to find local actors to do the recording or if I'll contract out each part to different people all over the internet. I like the idea of getting the actors together, but it might be more practical to farm the work out.

I've written nine episodes so far - still in very rough form - each of which is fifteen minutes long. The play is episodic in nature and will be fifty or so episodes long. The story follows a colonization space ship as it reaches a distant star system after several centuries of travel.

Unlike other current stories which focus on dystopia societies and how badly people can treat each other, this story will focus on man's determination and desire to do good. Which I guess says something about the way I view our society, since this is also the basic theme of both of my novels.

I've had fun putting this story together - both from a story point and a technical point of view, since I'm writing it as a script.

So back to the art – which I’m really excited about. While I haven’t written about the crew of the ship meeting any aliens yet – probably not until episode 13 or 14 – I’ve already thought about them a lot and written up some detailed histories and descriptions of four of the races.

I gave one of these descriptions to the artist, Rebecca, and she created sketches and then detailed drawings based on them. It was fun to see how her imagination sprang from my own. Having completed the first race, the Zinzez, she is currently working on a second race, the Greetlees. Here is an introduction to the first race.

## The Zinzez

Zinzez are crystal creatures which have no set form, growing appendages when needed. They have eyes, but no ears or mouths – they communicate by creating vibrations in their bodies. They are based on silica and carbon with traces of zinc and manganese, which give them a red and silver appearance. They create memory structures and “art” which feature crystals that include beryllium and aluminum which give them green and blue tints.

Individual Zinzez keep outward ornamentation so that they are recognizable to other Zinzez. This takes the form of brows, fans, ordered or unordered spikes, and color patterns from regular to random.

Because the Zinzez have no predators and are not predators themselves, they do not try to blend in or look menacing, however, to a human eye both are possible.

I have seven pictures of Zinzez. I know I shouldn’t have favorites – they’re all my children – but this is one of them. The Zinzez don’t have any sex, and I’m alternately pulled into thinking this is a male and a female.

I’m not sure if this will be the very first Zinzez the crew meets, but I’m sure it will be one of the first. I can’t wait to write this episode, where I get to explore how people would react to finding this creature. However, I’m being good by not jumping ahead, so that I’ll have motivation to write the episodes leading up to this one.

How about a contest.

## Name the Zinzez

Send your best suggestion for both what this guy might call itself and what the human crew might call it to [doug@agoodtale.com](mailto:doug@agoodtale.com)

## Conclusion

That’s it for this month. Be sure to check in next month for more news and stories.

Douglas G. Clarke

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