



THE LAST LIGHT

di *Corinna Rossi*

Egypt, Western Desert, beginning of the IV Century AD: by imperial order the outskirts of the Great Oasis, along the southern frontier of the Roman Empire, are the focus of an intensive programme of exploration linked with the construction of a chain of new settlements. The largest lies on a cultivated plain at the foot of an imposing escarpment, nestled between the sandy desert and the vast dome of the sky. Isolated and self-sufficient, the Settlement is inhabited by a busy community and a group of select soldiers entrusted with the specific task of guarding the southern plain: the Settlement, in fact, marks the border of the Roman Empire. For one hundred years, the inhabitants of the Settlement loyally follow the original orders of the Emperor until an unexpected event crushes all their certainties. Slowly, the inhabitants are forced to move elsewhere. When the last handful of soldiers realises that it is time to leave the Settlement, they place a last light on the Castle tower and prepare to leave. When the last light flickers out, a cycle ends and a new one begins.

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