6R-K-M5

“Everyone agrees these are hard times to fall in love with a model that cultivates the margin.” Pause to clear throat. “But there was something about all those sintered lodes on S48-4 that got me thinking.”

Does she regret the subsequent loss of the depots? She does her best simmering frown. “Yes I do. They were ancient technology of course but they were intact and viable – and had they fallen into the wrong hands...” There’s an arching of the eyebrows. Yet it was the rectifying of the sintered deposits that drew attention from all quarters.

Her astonishing insight was that vapours could be redeposited at the source placers. It changed what was possible anywhere, but especially on S48-4, given the available density contrasts. Soon all talk of recursive malaise was forgotten. There were many who immediately sought to become novices under her tutelage.

“I want to feel safe as much as the next person does. But security desubjectifies. Whatever was functional as outplace on the S-48 group is unworkable here, so far at least.” She points out that the rationale for the sifters’ slogan ‘Ordinary materials in their ordinary order’ had its roots in caste protocols that barred them from narration.

“The sifters were conflicted, they were lying about the odds” says she. “But some had the courage to use cynicism against itself.

John Chilver 2014