

Magic: Gone Forever

by Tavian MacLachlan

In an abandoned library, a young spellcaster named Violet Nox and her glowing wisp companion Nora were joined to find tomes lost to time, ones that have encryptions and unknown spells. They found this library after searching a forest that could only be opened by a code of spells nowhere to be found and they broke the lock after testing for hours.

"Nora, search over there, and I'll go down this hall, tell me if you find anything interesting," Violet ordered. She walked down a hall with a known sequence of Magicka symbols that pieced together 'The Unwritten Archives'. Jackpot. Violet explored down the halls, seeing familiar titles like 'Pyromaniac's Dream' and 'Lost Encryptions'. Violet also saw some not-so-familiar titles, like 'Waterbender's Dream' and 'Party Tricks'. Violet grabbed a tome from her bag, 'Archiver', one of the most familiar titles. It has a page in it that captures titles of seen tomes, and has a scan ability.

Violet did a scan, and a book's title was written in the tome archive page, 'Locator'. Violet picked up this forsaken tome and scanned the text for anything along the lines of 'unknown'. A logic match was found, and a full Magicka sentence pieced out 'I am a book in a world where everything's gray, where nobody sees the light of day nor night, where everybody sees but has never been'. Interesting. Violet knew strange worlds, not anything that matched this description. Gray, everybody must be dead, where everybody has seen.. Violet has not seen anything like this and asked Nora,

"Nora, come over here, I found something I need you to decipher!" Nora came flying over, and flew straight into the pages of the tome, jumping into the words, frantically searching for a key to solve this. Nora jumped out of the last word and said,

"I don't know what this means, but I may have a match for the realm." Violet had a puzzled look on her face and thought about it while Nora proudly flew around announcing,

"It's the Dusk realm, remember?" Violet had never been to a 'dusk' realm, so she asked Nora,

"I have never been to anything like that before, or I might've just forgotten." Nora bonked Violet on the head as if it would make her remember. Violet still looked confused and let out a

"What was that for?" And then she got wide-eyed. Violet had remembered, she was way younger and Nora took her, keeping her safe with spiritual guidance. The place was desolate and abandoned, the place had a single town and endless hills. It was time for them to leave the library, making sure to secretly write down the code in a new made-up language so only Violet and her wisp could read it. Only problem with the Dusk realm? Nobody except Violet and Nora has been reported to come back from it. There was a Heart of Magic that contains a lot of friendly towns in between tricks-and-traps planted by the ancient magic experts that made the place. Violet curiously asked Nora,

"Do you know any shortcuts for that place since they stop teleportation and flight there?" Nora fluttered around energetically before quickly saying

"Yes-yes-yes, you can just take the river and then-" Violet was entirely confused when she heard that. What river and where?

"Woah woah woah, I never knew you could talk that fast! Slow down, what river and where should we end up?"

"The River of Dreams of course, you can just follow where it goes and it should lead you to the right of the Heart!" Nora said, giggling. Violet now knew the River of Dreams, it had a lot of strange fish there when she visited, some could fly, some could walk, and some could talk. Violet pulled a net from her bag and swatted Nora and then used a teleportation spell to teleport to the river. For a relaxing 3 hours, they just rode the river with a floating magically made inner tube, reading Violet's book collection she brought. When they were there, Nora flew towards the forest, Violet completely unaware for a minute before leaving the summoned inner tube and sprinting towards Nora.

Violet wandered in, remembering the most recent time she needed to go here, Nora flying far ahead. Nora and Violet completely skipped past all the common traps by staying near the edge until they got to The Nameless, a strange town where nobody could agree on a name and the only place the Dusk realm was reached from. When they strolled in, the portal frame was the first thing they saw, and then just sprinted in before anyone could notice.

They were placed in a dark gray forest with a gray sky before Nora realized the teleportation and flight spells were not blocked here. Violet then teleported all around, scanning the environments with the Archiver tome and not finding anything close to a match to what the Locator tome said. Since the tome was most likely made here, Violet grabbed it from her bag and opened it, the words completely swapped. It now said 'Since you're here, you must know where I am, and you're not getting off easy. But I will be kind enough to tell you to find the Dull'. This section was written in messier handwriting than the page earlier.

No hints at all? Perfect for the two. Nora scanned the far east and Violet scanned the far west. Both finding nothing. The Locator tome shook in her bag when she was by a dull tree on a large hill. Violet needed to scream to get Nora's attention

"Nora, come here!" But her words were drowned out by the endless gray. Nora flew back, consumed by the Dusk. Violet then slowly sank deeper and deeper into the dull, gray soil before the dead roots of the Dull wrapped around her slowly from legs to her head until she started choking.

What is lost stays lost.

Forever.