

THE GOLDEN INK

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CHAPTER ONE

It was time for Layla and Thomas to go to bed. Layla and Thomas were twins, and they were ten years old. Both the twins loved to read, especially poetry. They said goodnight to their mother and father and headed upstairs. They got their poem book out of Layla's bookshelf. Layla and Thomas read a new poem every night before they went to bed. As Layla flipped to the page where they left off, she said,

"Tonight, the poem is called, A Reading Paradise, but look! This poem is glowing, and it's the only poem in the book that's glowing!" said Layla.

"Read it!" said Thomas eagerly. With that, Layla started to read the poem,

"A reading paradise on an island full of books.

Creatures that make you full of wonders, and things that make you look.

You see things you wouldn't imagine, you see things that make you shocked.

You see things that make you excited, or things that you want to block.

You get filled with wonder, you get filled with hope, you get filled with magical creatures who show you the way to look."

"That's an interesting poem." said Thomas.

"It is. I wonder what's making it glow." said Layla. Suddenly, all around them, things started disappearing. They started swirling into what seemed like a gigantic tornado, though they both knew it was not a tornado at all.

"Layla, what's happening?" Thomas asked sounding worried.

"I don't know!" said Layla. The twins were yelling for help, but no words came out of their mouths. Until finally, everything stopped. The spinning tornado was gone, but the twins were not at home anymore.

CHAPTER TWO

"Where are we?" asked Layla rubbing her eyes.

"What just happened?" asked Thomas looking around. They saw a huge island full of trees, and there were books almost everywhere.

“Thomas! This is the island we just read about! What do you think we are going to find? What if we find magical creatures like the poem said.” said Layla excitedly.

“I doubt that is going to happen.” said Thomas, but he looked excited too. As the siblings set off for their adventure, they had no idea what was awaiting for them on the reading paradise.

CHAPTER THREE

As Layla and Thomas traveled through the island, they realized that it was much bigger than what they expected, and it was almost impossible not to find books everywhere they turned.

“Let’s look for something that will help us find our way home.” said Thomas.

“We should look for the magical creatures the poem talked about! They could probably give us advice on how to get home!” They looked through the trees to see if anyone was there, but no one was in sight. As the twins kept walking, a low rustle came from behind a bunch of trees and bushes. Layla and Thomas stopped walking.

“What was that?” asked Layla.

“I don’t know.” said Thomas. The twins took a few steps forward until they saw something that made their eyes go wide. There, standing in a circle, was a group of animals staring right at them.

CHAPTER FOUR

For a moment all they did was stare at each other. Layla and Thomas were too shocked to speak, but suddenly one of the animals said,

“Hello,” which made Layla and Thomas jump, they were shocked they heard the animals talking like humans! Finally, Layla said,

“Hi, my name is Layla, and this is my brother Thomas.” An animal that looked half like a horse and half like an elephant said,

“Hi Layla and Thomas. It’s nice to meet you. My name is Fiona, and I am the leader of our kingdom here in the Reading Paradise.” The words "Reading Paradise" made Thomas’s eyes go wide.

“Where did you say this was?” he asked.

“The Reading Paradise of course.” said Fiona.

“Do you know how we are able to get back to our home?” asked Layla.

“How were you able to come into this poem?” asked Fiona.

“The poem was written in a shining ink,” said Thomas.

“That was the golden ink that made you travel through this poem!” said Fiona.

“The what?” asked Layla.

“The golden ink, it's a rare type of ink. If you write a poem with it, you can travel into wherever you write.” explained Fiona.

“Do you have some of this ink so we can write a poem to get back home?” asked Thomas.

“I’m afraid not. Like I said, it is rare, but I do have a map that leads you to it. Let me go find it.” said Fiona.

As they waited for Fiona, there was an awkward silence among all the creatures and the siblings.

“Here you go.” Fiona said when she returned.

“Thank you, Fiona!” exclaimed Layla.

“Anytime!” said Fiona. With a few more goodbyes, Thomas and Layla were finally off to start their big adventure through the reading paradise.

CHAPTER FIVE

“The map says we must travel through The Land of Poetry and An Authors Thoughts to find the golden ink.” said Thomas reading the map.

“This will be fun!” said Layla with a grin.

“We should be entering The Land of Poetry soon. Luckily, it’s very close to where we've been walking.” said Thomas. When he looked up from the map, he pointed to a path ahead. “That’s the path that leads you into The Land of Poetry.”

“Let’s run!” shouted Layla. So, the twins ran toward the path. As they ran, they saw different poems appearing. There were poems hanging on trees, poems on the ground, poems by the lake, and even poems floating in the air!

“Wow!” said Thomas.

“This is so cool!” Layla said. Layla ran over to read a poem that was very big. She read it aloud to Thomas,

“Welcome to The Land of Poetry where poems are everywhere.

You see them in the trees, you see them by the lake,

you certainly may look at them, but you may not take.”

The twins traveled through The Land of Poetry without touching anything. They read all types of different poems on their way.

Finally, all the poems started to end, and the path was done.

"I think we are done walking through The Land of Poetry already!" said Layla.

"Next on the list is An Authors Thoughts." said Thomas.

"Let's go!"

CHAPTER SIX

Layla and Thomas followed the path toward An Authors Thoughts. They walked, until they saw sheets of paper everywhere. Some were on the floor; some were crumpled up into paper balls, and some were folded neatly.

"Thomas, listen to this!" said Layla, as she picked up a sheet of paper and read it,

"Welcome to An Authors Thoughts, where authors pour their thoughts onto paper and see if it amounts to anything later.

Some papers are crumbled up, but some pages are folded neat.

It all depends on what the authors choose to keep."

Suddenly, behind them they heard a voice say,

"Hello," the twins spun around. There stood a woman in a floral dress.

"Hi," said Layla.

"Hi, my name is Thomas. Who are you?" asked Thomas.

"I'm the poet who made the poem, "A Reading Paradise" using the golden ink."

"You also know about the golden ink?" Layla exclaimed.

"I do. I can show you the way if you like." said the woman.

"We'd love that!" said Thomas. The woman told them to follow the path and soon they should come to a shiny forest. If they keep traveling north, they would see the golden ink. The twins thanked the woman, and continued their journey.

CHAPTER SEVEN

“We’re almost there!” said Thomas. They dashed off toward the light that they saw shining from the forest just like the woman had said.

“We’re here!” exclaimed Layla. There stood a shining liquid in a bowl. Next to the bowl of the golden ink was a poem. This time, it was Thomas who read it,

“You have traveled a long time, just to get to this place.

The golden ink is here, so you can get back to your case.

Don’t waste it on something silly, this is very rare.

Please make sure you use it and give it love and care.”

Layla took some of the ink and put it into her water jug.

“Did you bring your notepad and pencil?” asked Thomas.

“Yep!” said Layla.

“Then let’s write the poem right now!” Layla agreed, so she got out her notebook, and they got ready to write!

CHAPTER EIGHT

The two siblings got to work writing their poem. After they were finally done, they read it together,

“Our home is where we want to be, and where we want to go.

Our home is on Rocky Ridge Road just so you know.

This is where we read all of our books and read a new poem each night.

This is the home that we love, so please take us back there tonight.”

Within seconds, Layla and Thomas were traveling through a swirling tornado. Finally, they were back in their own beds on Rocky Ridge Road in the home that they loved. They will always remember the adventure they had in The Reading Paradise and can’t wait for their next adventure.