The Land of the Lost

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CHAPTER 1: WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Eli stood in the driveway, clutching her father's hand as she looked at the dainty cottage.

"Well, dainty isn't the best word to describe it," she murmured disdainfully, eyeing the dilapidated cottage. What once might have been plants was now a rotten pile of hay. And as for the house, urgh! All windows were shattered, leaving shards of glass everywhere, the door was half hanging, with splinters poking around. The interior was just as bad. Every wall had a crack in it, the lights flickered, causing an eerie glow. There

was a blanket of dust surrounding the whole perimeter. Not that it was that long.

Eli shuddered as she timidly asked,

"Daddy, are you sure they will buy it?" He smiled sadly at her.

"I don't know. Hopefully 28th time is lucky." He took a deep breath as a limo pulled over. A snobby-looking man and a girl around Eli's age came forward.

"Ahh, you must be the real-estate agent, Red!" the man said.

"It's Ted," Eli's dad growled. The man ignored him.

"I find that Red is rather an unusual name," he continued, earning scowls from the other three. "My name is—"

"Richard, we know," Eli snapped, earning a snort from the other girl.

"I was going to say Lord Richard, thank you very much. If you must know, I am a very wealthy member of parliament."

"Yeah, yeah we know," muttered the other girl with an eye roll.

CHAPTER 2: WHEN THE DUO MEETS

The girl cornered Eli.

"Sorry about my dad, he obviously has a swollen head." She grinned, "I'm Orla!"

"Eli," she replied, "Is your dad always like that?"

"Believe it or not, YES! Even to his parents, he insists on being called Lord Richard, nothing else... Well maybe Lord." She burst into a fit of giggles. "I wonder what he'd say if I called him that."

"I have another question. Why does he want to buy this rubbish?"

"Because he wants land," Orla retorted, glaring at her thick-skinned father.

"Girls, whilst I tour Lord Richard," he emphasised 'Lord' very snarkily, "Would you two like to explore the garden?"

"You don't have to ask me twice," Orla exclaimed and sprinted away. Eli cautiously followed, careful not to trip on the glass. She halted while she took it all in. The dapple-brown fence was torn in two, leaving no privacy from the neighbour, and there was no grass but piles of mud. Orla imitated vomiting. "Ugh, how are we supposed to explore the garden when there isn't anything to explore?"

Eli shrugged. "Can we go back inside now?" she whined.

"No way! It smells like rats!" Orla insisted. Eli had to agree.

"Wait," Eli cried, "what's that? "A crumpled sheet of paper was sticking out of the mud.

Orla dug her hands in and pulled out…

"Is that what I think it is?"

"Yeah, I think so,"

"A map!" they chorused.



CHAPTER 3: PORTAL MISHAP

"Yayyy. It's a maaaap," Orla sighed.

"Oh, look, it's raining sarcasm!" Eli shot back.

"What? Maps are boring."

"Give that here!" Orla handed her the map; it was so fragile, Eli felt like it would rip at any moment. It must have been thousands of years old.

"What's that thing in the middle?" She indicated towards the midnight-black circle on the centre of the map and lightly brushed her finger against it. Out of nowhere, a blue swirly thing appeared before their eyes.

Awkward silence. No one spoke, no one moved. They just glared at the hypnotising swirl. Eli was the first one to break the silence.

"What is it?" she breathed. Her turquoise eyes became hazy as she drew closer, like a moth to a flame.

"I... think it is a portal!" Orla smiled gleefully. "Wait until I tell all my friends!"

Eli snapped out of her daydream. "No! You can't tell anyone. And we are NOT going through it!"

Orla groaned, "Whyyy not?".

"Who knows what it will lead to."

"Spoiltsport!"

"Heyyy, no I'm not!"

"That's it! I'm going in!" Orla stepped into the beam of light and was whisked away.

CHAPTER 4: THE LAND OF THE LOST

"Woah! I'm floating!" Orla laughed as she swam around, "Where am I?"

"The Void," an indignant voice called behind her. Orla tensed and looked over her shoulder. She nervously chuckled as the silhouette of Eli swam closer.

"Before you ask," Eli continued, "there is a sign hovering above that door over there that says - THE VOID."

"Come on, let's see what's behind the door!"

"NO! We've seen enough, I'm going back!"

Orla smirked, "How? There is no doorway back!" Eli sighed and swam towards the door.

"Come on then."

Orla stepped out and a blinding light hit her eyes.

"Umm, what is this place?"

"The Land of the Lost! And now that you are in, you will never get out!" a gruff voice cackled.

"Who are you?" screamed Eli.

"I am The Alchemist. And you are my prisoner.

Everything blacked out.

CHAPTER 5: TRAPPED

Eli woke up and found herself in an 18-foot-tall cage. Orla (who was right next to her) looked very perplexed.

"It's not my fault my sedative lasted longer than yours!" Eli snapped.

"Wait, how did you know I was thinking that?" Orla demanded.

"I... don't... know."

"It's because you are a Telepath." They both jumped as The Alchemist appeared, "I am an Invisor - I can turn invisible."

"But I don't even live here!" Eli exclaimed.

"Whenever a human comes to The Land of the Lost, they trigger a power. Everybody who lives here was once from planet Earth. I once lived there too. I was known as... um... I can't remember, because once you've been here more than a day, you lose your memory." The girls exchanged an alarmed glance.

"Freaky!" Orla breathed. "But why don't I have a power?"

"You will get one before the end of the day. Now, I have one rule only - don't even think about escaping!" And then he walked away.

CHAPTER 6: THE GREAT ESCAPE - OR IS IT?

"Ok, now that we are alone, let's talk about how we are going to escape," Orla demanded.

"Maybe we can climb up the rungs of the cage? Though I'm not very athletic." Eli glanced up at the unsettling height of the cage

"I am!" Orla stated and started climbing. "Almost there," she wheezed, beads of sweat dripping on her forehead, "Ouch!" she felt a sudden jolt in her hands and fell back head-first. Eli rushed to her.

"Are you ok?"

"Yeah, I think so. The Alchemist must have electrified the top of this cage."
"Oooh! I know! What if we both climb up and then I haul you over and..."

"That will never work. Besides, I can barely climb five feet, how do you expect me to climb eighteen feet?" Eli interrupted.

"Well not with that attitude you won't!" She looked around, scanning for anything that would help. Disgustingly damp floor - no, Eli's power - no, the fungus at the corners of the cage, NO!

"I guess we just have to give up." Eli slouched against the corner.

Orla's face scrunched together, in deep thought. "NOT YET, I have one more plan."

"LET US OUT!!!" she screamed, banging her fist on the cage. No reply.

Orla vanished and appeared at the edge of the cage!

"Orla... did you just teleport?"

"WHAT! Did I?" Orla frowned, staring down at herself like she had just found out she was an alien.

"You know what this means?" Eli continued, "That you can teleport us out of the cage," she exclaimed at the exact same moment Orla said in a singsong voice, "I have a better power than you!" Eli glared at her.

"Oh yeah, I CAN teleport us out! Good idea." She grabbed Eli's wrist, "On the count of three: 1, 2, 3!" Eli rubbed her eyes and jumped back.

"Wow! We really are free! Come on, let's find a way out of here before we forget everything!" Eli sang in triumph.

"Don't be so sure!" a voice boomed.

CHAPTER 7: ONE MORE PUSH

"It's The Alchemist isn't it," squealed Eli. She pivoted on the spot.

"I thought I made it clear that you shouldn't escape! If you want to be free, you must get past me!"

"You? Wow, I'm so scared. I have to fight an old man!" Orla snorted.

"Well, they call me The Alchemist for a reason!" He gulped down a bottle full of yellow liquid. Tap shoes appeared on both girls' feet.

"Ummm... Why are we dancing?" asked Eli. "And I know you think you are doing better but you really aren't, Orla."

"Urgh, got me again!" she replied, her legs flailing everywhere, "My feet have pins and needles.!!!"

"Not my problem!" The Alchemist cackled.

"Oooh, I have an idea," Orla whispered. "Follow my lead. Ok?" She barely waited for Eli to begin before she stated, "Mr Alchemist, I have a question."

"Make it quick," he growled.

"Do you know the way back to Earth?"

"Yes, but I can't go back. Only a..." he paused. "I've said too much."

"Quick! Read his mind and see the end of the sentence!"

"Wait! Orla, that's genius."

"Thank you. NOW GO!" One minute passed. Then two minutes, then three.

"Hurry up!" Orla mouthed. Eli squeaked as she heard the rest of the sentence.

"Yes. But I can't go back, only a teleporter can."

"GOT IT!" Eli screamed in triumph.

"Got what?" The Alchemist growled.

"A... new way to tie laces?" Eli suggested. The Alchemist grunted and turned away.

"Quick! Teleport us out of here," she whispered.

"Ok here goes." She grabbed Eli's wrist, shut her eyes, and thought hard about the old cottage. She felt a twist in her gut, everything spun and off they went.

CHAPTER 8: BACK HERE AGAIN

"Ahhh, I never thought I would miss this place!" Orla said as their feet touched the mud. She ran and hugged the dilapidated cottage.

"Y'know, I sort of want to go back to the Land of the Lost. I miss my power," Eli admitted, with a sheepish grin.

"Me too. So, I'll keep the map."

"No, I want it!"

"Girls, stop fighting," Ted called.

"What's that thing you are holding?" Richard grabbed the map and pressed the black mark. Both men stumbled into a portal.

"Come on!" Eli cried. "We should probably help them."

And... once again, the pair leaped into the portal.

Epilogue

"Kelsey! Look what I found! A map."

"Where was that?" Kelsey replied, glancing at the map.

"Over there."

"Enid, what's that black thing in the centre? "

“It says The Land of the Lost. Huh, I wonder what it is?” Enid’s finger hovered over the spot. A swirly, blue thing appeared. A portal…

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Eli's father is a real-estate agent. Orla's father craves land. So, when they meet up to look at some property, the two girls find a portal that leads to an unknown dimension named The Land of the Lost. Together, will they manage to escape the evil Alchemist and find a way back home before they lose all their memories?