Disney

MAGICA

And the Book of Doom

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© Disney
ISSN 2753-7471
Disney Extensions Stories and Retellings
The Walt Disney Company Limited
3 Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 9PE

You won't find any morals or lessons in this story.

But it is still my story. My name is Magica...

Here I was training, as always, in preparation for my future role: High Witch. The most respected one in all of the World of Magic.

The keeper of the darkest and most perilous secrets.

Being me has never been easy. Believe me.

Everyone has high expectations of me. And that includes yours truly.

♫♫ Enchant my heart, through the darkness... ♫♫

!

Morning, my dear!

I bet you're still practicing in your *secret room*...

I'm studying, Gennaro! What do you want?

Ah, as far as I'm concerned you can study as long as you like!

But don't get mad if you miss the school bus. It's ten minutes away.

How did it get so late?!

Darn it! I'm never late...

Yep... Most importantly, your aunt would drive us both nuts...

If I allowed her favorite niece to be late.

You think I don't know that?!

By the way: where is *Marelia?*

Has she left the house yet?

Indeed she has! Dad picked her up an hour ago...

And you...?

I'm already on my way.

Enjoying a walk in the rain, taking it easy... unlike you!

Have a good breakfast and... keep an eye on the clock!

BLIP

Breakfast *alone*... as usual.

Villa De Spell is the biggest house in the city. But only the two of us ever lived there.

Household hands, you stay home!

Okay, I basically lived there **alone**, since **Marelia** was always on business with **Bruno**, her most trusted adviser...

Bruno's son, Gennaro... well, you just met him.

He and I grew up together, and he's one of the few people Marelia trusted staying around me.

We've always been different... but he's also the closest thing to a **real friend** I've ever had.

WOOOOSHH

Who has time for friends? My to-do-list had enough on it to last the next two centuries or so.

BLING

Hi Magica. You have 237 unviewed messages!

That's pretty normal when you're the niece of the **High Witch.**

And everyone is certain that one day **you will take her place!**

MARELIA kicks off work for th GRAND ANNUAL MEETING

The World of Magic is not quite what you might expect.

No ruined castles, dark forests or fierce witchcraft duels around here.

Those days are gone – today magic is used to make the world work.

It is the **source of energy** that powers everything.

Cars, blimps, microwave ovens, smartphones and everything else...

Hardly anyone has time to practice the spells of the old days anymore, with all the conveniences we have today.

Bus Stop

TSCHHHH...

Hardly anyone has time for anything anymore.

Gardener

KILLING

It's crucial for me to be on time – as always.

Usually the other kids would step aside as I passed.

They looked at me with admiration, awe, or envy.

Not bad, huh?

They were too nervous to talk to me.

I told you, didn't I? I was destined to be someone powerful and important.

I was used to everyone being a little in awe of me.

Stop staring at her, **Jaime!**

You're embarrassing **us.**

...

Leave him alone, Lexi... You know he's a fan of our superstar.

Superstar? Well, some days I felt just like that, actually.

Especially on **Thursdays.**

Because on Thursdays, I could **show off** with my favorite subject...

History!

Let's continue our overview of the ***High Witches*** and Sorcerers of the 12th Dynasty...

1044 years ago, the Supreme Witch was ***Malaspina***, also known as "the Dragon Slayer". At that time, dragons were not the lovable pets we know today...

Malaspina led the effort to contain the threat of those scaly monsters.

The chronicles describe her as a benign and well-respected ruler.

After her passing, the role of High Sorcerer went to ***Marlynus***. Nothing is known about him except that he was known as "The Dark Writer".

After him, the role was taken over by...

If I may, Professor Chen, ***I would like to add something.***

Argh! I have already told you not to ***corrupt*** the instruments in the classroom to your liking, Magica!

But prof... Marlynus is such a fascinating figure!

Besides, it's not true that we know nothing about him.

All right, Magica... as you wish.

Enlighten us.

Well, he certainly had a passion for witchcraft books, as he spent most of his regency holed up in his tower writing them...

Many of the ancient and most dangerous spells we know about were preserved because of his invaluable work!

Among his most important volumes are the Dark Commentary, the Phantom Bestiary... and the ***Book of Doom***...

Very rare and very dangerous texts, of course.

Very good, Magica. Flawless as usual.

Do you want to add anything ***else?***

Well, we could also talk about the ***mysterious disappearance*** of Marlynus, who according to the chronicles of the time...

Service announcement to all Gardener School classes!

WHOPP

As you know, the ***Grand Annual Meeting*** will take place in two weeks...

But there is some exciting news we want to give you in advance.

One of our students will have the privilege of performing at the ***Grand Magic Gala*** that will close the day!

It is ***Magica De Spell!***

Never before has a girl as young as fourteen participated in the oldest and most glorious display of magic in our culture!

We should be proud that the Gardener School is represented by her.

Everyone, please give Magica your support!

Tsk! Just what I needed.

You're really the best!

That's fantastic!

As if I wasn't already different enough from my classmates.

A performance at the Grand Gala... Must be ***easy***...

... when you're the niece of the High Witch!

Shut up!

Do you want her to hear you? She knows terrible magic!

She creeps me out.

It's not easy to be me.

RIIING

I've already said that, haven't I?

And that's it for today... See you later at the Café?

It must be nice to have free time. My day at school doesn't end when classes are over...

After all, I was the students' union **representative...**

Mr. Principal, here are three different options we have prepared for a more balanced menu in the cafeteria...

How do you feel about being selected for the **Grand Gala?**

And then I had already agreed to an interview for the school paper!

Well, I'll just try to do my best, Tracy.

As always.

Not to mention that I was the president of the **art club...**

URRGHHH...

Simon, please... Stop your slime statue before it bites someone.

Sure, Magica!

... as well as the captain of the **fencing team!**

KZZZZZZM

Okay, I yield!

You win again!

Getting home before sunset was often a luxury for me.

Hi, Magica. You have 1317 unviewed messages!

Mostly it is congratulations on the news of your performance at the Grand Gala.

Hey there, still hanging around?

Look who's talking! No umbrella?

I can make one for you if you want, Gennaro...

Naw, there's no need to waste your energy.

I like the rain!

You waiting for the bus? I can walk you home...

I don't have time to wander around with you. Too many things to do!

By the way, congratulations on the Grand Gala! It's all anyone can talk about!

Have you decided what kind of *spell* you are going to cast? Pyrotechnic? Explosive?

Top secret! I don't want to spoil it.

You're such a blabbermouth!

Well, I hope you'll at least keep me in mind if you need a collaborator for the show.

Getting on that stage would be a hoot!

Too bad I still had no idea what to present.

Every day, since the announcement, all I could think about was what to present.

The house was still empty, as I had left it.

No, thank you. I don't have time for evening tea. I have things to do.

CLACK

BLIP

Haaaah! I'm *shattered!*

All this *pressure*...

Everyone expecting so much from me... it's so... tiring.

I just need to recharge and I'm sure I'll come up with a great idea.

... rest my eyes...

... a little bit...

... Magica...

... Magica...

... Magica...

MAGICA!!

BLING

Magica, you just received a priority message from Marelia!

Ha!!

Argh! That's right... So much for *resting my eyes*...

I have *Magical Survival* class tonight!

I am waiting for you in the Dungeon. Bruno will pick you up in two minutes. Be ready at the gate.

Tsk... what do we have here?

Definitely some kind of *illusion* spell...

It looks just like the Gardener School.

Oh... look. Magica is here.

The *little school queen.*

The most *hated* girl of all.

Unbearable!

Always looking down on everybody...

But now *she* will be the one to go down!

Looking for trouble?

HSSSSS

Well, you'll get it!

WA-ZAMM

Think fast, Magica...

WHOOM

Shape-shifting beings, able to alter their surroundings and read the minds of their victims to exploit their weaknesses.

Surely they are Bone-molder Trees!

And like all plant creatures...

CRAASH

They are very sensitive to the lack of light!

WHAMM

Darkness weakens you, doesn't it?

WHUMP

UUUUURRRUUGGHHHLL...

That's it.

How long did I take?

Less than 15 seconds. A true *record.*

Very *impressive*, Ms. De Spell. My compliments.

Hmm...

This is **Bruno**, Gennaro's father.

And she... well, she's the High Witch. My aunt. Marelia.

An acceptable performance, yes.

Acceptable. The closest thing to a **compliment** I'll get from her. She must have been in a very good mood that night.

Thank you, Marelia!

Although a little too ***flashy***, I must say.

You could have used a common ***total darkening*** spell.

By casting the whole room into darkness you would have neutralized the Bone-molders with one blow...

Maximum results with minimum effort. This is how a High Witch thinks.

Wasting far less magical energy.

SNAP

Let me give it another try! I can improve.

I'm super charged tonight!

If you want to make a good impression at the Gala, you will have to try many more times. Just not tonight... follow me.

I need to introduce you to ***the others.***

These are the other young witches and wizards who will perform at the ***Grand Gala!***

Um, good evening.

So, this is your niece, Marelia... the little celebrity.

Ha! She's really young. Will she even be to ***compete*** with our kids?

Magica was raised to take my place. It's ridiculous to question her talent.

It might be ***your*** kids who can't compete with her.

Guinevere, show the High Witch what the ***mayor's*** daughter... can do!

Roger, daddy!

FLUUUUUSH

Nice, Gart! I remember my Bartholomew used to do that as a child...

This is just a hint of his full potential!

WHOOSH

Just a little glimpse of what you'll be showing everyone at the Gala...

FLUUUUUSH

What will the High Witch's niece be able to do to measure up?

Great things, I'm sure.

Would you give us a demonstration of the spell you prepared?

Yeah... the spell for the Gala.

Even after weeks of searching, I still hadn't found a good enough spell.

Um... okay.

They were so ready. Older. More experienced...

... Maybe better than me?

I'm going to shape... ehr, something and... and turn it into something that...

I didn't know what I was doing. But I **had** to do something.

I couldn't let them see how unprepared I was.

Oh, I think not!

SPLASH

I'll remind you that our boys and girls are ***not*** competing.

After all, they will have to perform together.

Anyway, they'd better not play their cards this early, am I right?

They still have ***another week*** to practice...

Right away, I was relieved...

But a simple **glance** from her was enough for me. I knew my aunt.

Her look said, "You and I are going to have a talk later".

She knew I had no idea what I was doing.

And I risked **embarrassing** her in front of the city's elite. That would have been...

... *Unforgivable!* Have you forgotten even the basics?

By casting spells haphazardly, without having a *clear idea* of what you are going to do, you are headed for *certain disaster.*

For a moment I didn't recognize you. You looked almost... confused.

Showing uncertainty is a luxury we cannot afford.

It's a pretty stressful time, Marelia... that's all.

Stressful... wait till you're *in my place*, then you'll understand real stress.

I hope that on the Grand Gala stage you will not panic like that.

... Oh, of course not!

Miss Magica is the most talented witch I have ever met. I'm sure she has already found a spell that will leave everyone speechless!

Am I right?

I am working on something *incredible*... you'll see!

I hope so, my dear.

The De Spell reputation will be in your hands.

You will have to be up to this *burden*. I know you will not let us down.

"I know you will not let us down"... my aunt's typical warning.

It more or less meant, "Screw up again and you're doomed!"

At that moment, I realized how much trouble I was in.

And how lonely I was.

Something *incredible*... what was I thinking?

I've been experimenting for weeks... searching through these books.

All I've found are levitation tricks, light effects and other too easy junk...

That's stuff anyone can do! You have be more daring, Magica. You've got this!

Yeah... I can do this!

I will be the *High Witch!* Nothing will stop me!

Nothing...

Sniff...

... Sniff...

... zzz...

So you're looking for a spell that is superlative.

!!

Well, nothing could be *easier*, Magica...

Just follow my *voice*.

W-what kind of a *joke* is this?

Another *illusion* spell?

I know where to find one that's right for you...

Impossible. Maybe some kind of dream spell?

Or perhaps... this is really *just a dream.*

That's it... follow me, you're on the right track.

Who are you supposed to be? Where are you?

Very close... and very far away...

You know, Magica... I understand you.

Oh yeah? I don't think so.

I do. I'm *in trouble*, too. And I'm very *lonely*.

Forsaken by everyone. Cast aside despite my value.

I know what you are worth. You deserve so much more than others are willing to give you...

Admiration. Appreciation. Friendship.

Are you *over there?*

Marelia's quarters... absolutely off-limits to *anyone*.

That's exactly why I want to show you my friendship...

I will help you find the spell you are looking for.

At the *Dark Library*, in the Transformation Spells section...

WHOOSSH

But... what?! That symbol...

... There is a certain volume that will surely suit you!

Check it out... you won't regret it.

Ha!

The... Dark Library?

I mean, why did you let her ***in?***

She's just a ***child!*** What is she doing here?!

Keep your voice down!

Don't you recognize her? That's ***Marelia***'s niece!

Wow! They say she's an ***ace*** with ancient spells.

That's right... so don't get involved.

One small benefit of my position...

I don't want any ***trouble.***

*Normally, access to the **Dark Library** is forbidden to kids.*

*The oldest and most **dangerous** spells are kept there.*

Those forgotten by everyone...

... or almost everyone.

Okay, here's the ***transformation spells*** section.

Let's take a look...

These *grimoires* are awesome! Priceless artifacts!

Cool stuff... not like the *kids books* in my collection.

But you mustn't get distracted!

You came here to find... find... something *superlative.*

No one uses transformation spells anymore... there's no point.

But if I perform a truly *spectacular* one, I'll astonish the audience!

Hah, who are you kidding?

Are you really listening to a *stupid voice* in your head? Have you stooped so low?

You came here and you don't *even know* what you're looking for!

Hey... what is that?...

The same *symbol* from the dream!

Could this be the *volume* I need?

Uhm... this spell is called *Corax*... interesting. *Very* interesting!

Yes... *YES!* It is the most difficult magic I've ever seen! *Exactly* what I need for the Grand Gala!

All I need to do is cast an ordinary *invisibility spell* on it and take it away without making anyone suspicious!

Marelia doesn't want to be disappointed?

Well, I'll make sure that doesn't happen!

Hey, Magica! What were you up to among those dusty books?

Looking for *inspiration!*

Did you find it?

You bet! I haven't been this *excited* in months! I can't wait for the big day! By the way...

Still thinking of being a *test subject* for my show?

You kidding? It'd be an honor!

The week leading up to the Grand Meeting went by in a flash...

I didn't sleep a wink almost the whole time!

I was too excited to **rest!**

I had just seven days to learn **Corax** perfectly.

The usual **busy** schedule at school...

... was followed by hours and hours of meticulous exercises in my lab...

I couldn't afford any mistakes, I had to experiment on **inanimate objects** first... I knew it wouldn't be the same... but it was a start!

Everyone would know that I was **worthy** of being the next High Witch!

I was sure I would succeed!

I didn't expect it to end in catastrophe...

And finally, the **Grand Annual Meeting** arrived!

In **ancient times**, on this special day the most powerful magicians would gather to seal alliances and exchange **dark secrets**... Today it's very different.

Welcome! The opening ceremony will begin in half an hour!

At the **Cadabra Hotel**, the city's tallest skyscraper, lots of exclusive events are attended by the most famous witches and sorcerers: business meetings...

I propose a 0.2% increase in magic energy consumption for public transportation!

Or endless technical seminars...

You going to the presentation of the new ***flying scooter*** collection?

Of course, the task of managing the event rests entirely on the shoulders of the **High Witch**.

Marelia, emergency! Buffet #12 is out of avocado toast!

The compared alchemy symposium will start six minutes late!

For years Marelia has wanted me by her side throughout the day...

So I understand the **responsibilities** I would one day have.

But the most anticipated event is the **Grand Magic Gala**, which takes place at the end of the day's proceedings.

Look!

That's **Guinevere**, the daughter of Mayor Gart!

One of the most promising sorceresses of the new generation!

A proper **debut in society** for younger wizards.

Thank you all!

I'll amaze you!

Hey, there's another one coming!

That's **Bartholomew Skinner**, winner of sixteen magic contests...

... and **Violet Bark**, levitation champion!

That's **Magica**, Marelia's niece!

At that moment I was in the spotlight...

Ooh, she's so young!

Did I feel the pressure? Was I afraid of making a mistake in front of everyone? **No.**

I was sure I had **the best spell ever** in store.

SPLASH

Witches and sorcerers, a standing ovation for young Bartholomew Skinner...

Who performed the incantation, "Three-Dimensional Liquid Battle"!

Now it's the kids' turn.

I wonder what your niece has in store. She seemed very... determined.

I think she found the spell she was looking for.

Guys, it's your turn in two minutes.

So, all I have to do is sit on that sort of *perch*.

Yes.

And you really don't want to *share* anything about your spell yet?

The less you know, the less trouble you'll be, you fumbler.

Be quiet... I need to *focus*.

Ha! Are you nervous *now*?

Is that why you didn't tell him?

No. I'm not nervous *at all.*

I know I'll amaze everyone.

The other contestants are just performing silly *circus tricks.* Yours, on the other hand, is a *real spell...*

You will show *everyone* what you are made of.

Even *Marelia* will have to bow before your...

Magica! It's time!

It's showtime!

... And now, a big round of applause for *Magica De'Spell.*

The youngest witch ever to perform on this stage!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

Have you *focused* enough?

Sorry for snapping at you just now. I didn't mean to.

And also sorry for not telling you anything about the performance. It's a *surprise.*

Can't wait to find out, little one!

I just hope it's nothing too risky, he he!

You just have to be still, *Ratface...* and trust me.

And he did. I trusted myself too.

WOOOOOSHHH

WOOOOSHHH

Gh!!

Wha...

But... that... that's a ...

A transformation spell!

I don't believe it... that's a Corax!

I-it huuuurts...

WOOOOOSSHHH

K-KKKKKKKKKK...

We were both wrong.

At last!

I thought it would never end, it felt like I was buried under a pile of pins!

Hey... why did you guys all get so *big?*

I had done it! I had left everyone stunned!

Even Marelia didn't seem to hold back...

I had never seen her so so...

Enraged?

What have you done, you senseless girl?!

The spell you cast on Gennaro is IRREVERSIBLE!!!

Needless to say, the news of the **disaster** went around the World of Magic in no time...

How did your niece gain access to a ***forbidden*** spell like Corax?

How was a student able to use such magic?

Will ***action*** be taken?

Irreversible transformation of a living being is one of the worst ***crimes***...

No need to explain to ***me*** how our laws work. Many of them were written by my ancestors.

What about Mr. ***Gennaro's*** family?

How are they coping with this tragedy?

Enough.

The situation is under control. You'll be informed as soon as developments occur.

And as for any necessary actions against ***the one*** and only person responsible for this despicable incident...

They will be taken.

You can count on it.

You made: 22 calls to Ratface. Answers received: 0

Magica?...

Are you awake?

Can you hear me?

YOU!!
Who are you really?
Where are you?!
Show yourself!
The Dark Library... the grimoire with the feather symbol...
You are the one who set me on the trail of Corax!
What happened to Ratface is your fault!
My fault, you say?
Are you sure about that?
I... I... You're right.
You've nothing to do with it... you're just a stupid voice inside my head.
The fault is mine alone. I've failed.
I only thought about surprising everyone.
About being the best.
Nonsense, Magica. They are to blame.
Marelia, your teachers, adults... they are responsible!
I... I don't know...
Irreversible spells do not exist, my friend.
Whoever wants you to believe that is stupid, or lying.
And I didn't even realize that I was casting an irreversible spell on my best friend.
Them and their pressures... their expectations... and their ignorance.

You mean there's a way out?

A way to... to...

To return poor Ratface to his original state? *Of course!*

A very ancient formula, called ***Meden***, which has a distinct property...

Nullify the effect of ***any*** other spell!

Is t-there really such a thing?

You have no idea how many ***spells*** have been forgotten... how much ***power*** has been lost over the centuries...

Where...

Where is that formula? ***Tell me!***

On the pages of the ***Book of Doom.***

One of the ancient volumes written by ***Marlynus***... which is located...

Right ***here***, in Villa De Spell! Under lock and key. Well guarded in Marelia's archives.

I am certain that you...

... will be able to find that spell...

*I **really** thought I had found the solution.*

*I just had to wait for Marelia and tell her about my **discovery.***

Um, can I tell you something?

I... I may have found a solution, Marelia.

I believe that breaking Corax is possible.

We can make things right again!

You need to look through the books in your personal library, and...

Be quiet.

SNAP

WA-ZI-NK!

You still have the ***impertinence*** to address me.

After destroying Gennaro's life.

After breaking his father's heart.

But you did something even more unforgivable than causing irreparable harm to innocent people.

You humiliated me.

You tainted the family's ***prestige***.

You precluded yourself from aspiring to the title of ***High Witch***.

You ***ruined everything***, Magica De Spell.

And now you will have to take responsibility for it.

Your foolish actions will have consequences.

Hhhh...

Irreparable ones, too.

Irreparable consequences.

DRIIIIIIINNN

It didn't take long to experience them.

At the Gardener School, the admiring or intimidated looks had suddenly **changed.**

Turned into looks of mockery, or worse: pity.

Also, my presence during classes had suddenly become awkward.

Not to mention **after-school activities.** Marelia came up with one hell of a punishment.

You always claim to be too busy, don't you?

I've already discussed this with the Gardener school's principal. From now on you will have only one duty...

Afternoon remedial classes! Intended for kids who have fallen behind in the program.

Hey, friend, welcome!

We're going over the spell to light candles!

Whatever.

And we **aren't** friends.

Basically, demoted from **school star** to hopeless **outcast.**

Sentenced to spend my afternoons in the company of Professor Coleman...

Come on, *Jaime!*

You can do it... focus!

Ghhh... yes... I can do it...

And those three losers.

Jaime: the hopeless nerd. He couldn't make a decent spell in a million years.

PSSSHHH!

It's okay... better luck next time!

I would have bet he had an endless collection of **comic books** and **living action figures** at home.

Theo: the most absent-minded guy I've ever met. Always lost in his own world.

Do you want to have a go, Theo?

Uh?... What?

Who knows what was going through his head.

And finally, **Lexi:** hot-headed, tactless, and jaded.

Lexi?

Hell no, prof.

From the scowls she gave me, I could tell she hated me.

My awful companions in misfortune!

Hey, friend!

We're dropping by the Café. Would you like to join us?

Uh? No, thanks.
I have a lot to do at home.
Tsk! I told you.
De Spell doesn't want to grace us with her presence.
Whatever you say, Lexi.
I'll see you tomorrow.
No, wait, Magica!
I... I think... I understand how you feel.
But there's something you need to know.
It's going to be okay, despite... um...
Say it. Despite the ***monstrous*** mistake I made.
Despite my becoming the ***laughingstock*** of the school and the whole town.
As well as the ***disgrace*** of my family. Okay, good for you!
But you also need to know one thing. I am still the same. And.
I.
Don't.
Need.
Friends.
Even if I wanted friends, nothing good could come from it. My friends seem destined for ***a horrible end...***
A week later, I still hadn't heard from Ratface...

At home, things weren't any better.

The few times I saw Marelia, she wouldn't speak to me. I stayed in my room...

... pondering what to do.

Hi, Magica. You have 644 unviewed messages!

62% are taunts. 38% are threats from strangers for what you've done.

Do you want to view them?

No. Delete them all. I don't have time to waste with...

TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP

No way! Is that you, *Ratface?*

Of course it is!

Do you know any other *talking crows?*

It's been a while... what's up?

You're asking me how I am?! I was so worried about you!

How, uh... how are you?

You know, I couldn't stand being locked up in the house, listening to my old man's whining.

So I said to myself: Gennaro, you really need some air.

And I bailed.

FRRRPRR

I wasn't talking about that! I... turned you into a crow!

I did a *terrible* thing!

I ruined your life!

Ruined... tsk, what a *big word!*

It's not so bad as a bird. It's no worse than before, I mean.

I would like to learn how to fly, though. For now I'm hopping around like a chicken... climbing up here was...

Come on!

How can you not be ***angry?*** Why don't you ***hate*** me for what I did to you?

Would it change anything if I did?

No, but... but...

But I'll ***never*** be able to forgive myself, all right?

You must know that I'm working on a plan to ***fix everything!***

How?

Dad and Marelia say that Corax is irreversible...

They are ***wrong***, and I'll prove it!

There is a spell called ***Meden***, which can undo the effect of any spell.

It's written in the ***Book of Doom***, which Marelia keeps in her quarters.

I've been researching that book for days, and I'm more and more confident that if I could just leaf through it, I'd find a way...

I will restore you to your original form if it's the last thing I do!

Well, all right. Only, I wonder...

Don't we risk making things ***worse?***

How could we? I was sure I had already hit rock bottom.

Worse than that? No way!

Hey, friend! What is that?

Notes on a spell book? Interesting!

It's none of your business, Jaime!

Besides... you wouldn't understand.

That's about the ***Book of Doom.*** Pretty tough volume!

You know it?

Handwritten 1001 years ago by Marlynus, the dark writer. Said to be bound in the bark of the ***Willow of Fate***, written in ***living ink***, and sealed by three ***bewitched locks!***

My! You're an expert...

Spells don't appeal to me... but the grimoires in which they are kept are my passion! One day I'll work at the ***Dark Library!***

What I wouldn't give to have a chance to leaf through the Book of Doom just once!

Then why don't you? I know it's been in the High Witch's possession for generations!

Like it's that easy!

Marelia keeps it under lock and key in her library.

I have never set foot in her rooms. They are probably the most ***guarded*** place in this city.

Well, in that case...

We need a ***good plan*** to sneak in there.

My mother owns the best magical security company in town.

I know that type of door... model C-74, ***triple alchemical shielding***. Open it without first using the proper spell, and your aunt will find out right away.

Her rooms will probably be filled with traps of all kinds!

Who knows what we could encounter?

We'll just need to ***disable them*** for a while.

Um, and you think you can do that?

You kidding? Theo here grew up among magical security systems... he spends all his time imagining and designing new ones.

There's not one that can ***keep him out!*** Not even those of the ***High Witch!***

Now all we have to do is find the right opportunity to ***strike***, am I right, guys?

Puah! You guys are ridiculous. Count me out!

We can't leave Magica in trouble!

She's a friend!

*A **friend**... I'd like to say that I was beginning to believe it...*

That I was slowly getting closer to these three losers.

*But that would be a **lie**. The truth is that I knew I couldn't do it alone.*

*I needed some help. And I decided **to take advantage** of their offer.*

The **opportunity** Theo was talking about came a week later.

Psst! This way, guys. And watch out for the **carnivorous brambles.**

Marelia was **out of town** for a conference on psychic vampirism.

Her rooms would be **unattended** for three long days...

Wow! This collection is amazing!

Touch those volumes and I'll turn you into a **crow** too, Jaime!

This way...

... the door to Marelia's quarters is over here!

Here you go, **sir.** Your turn.

You sure you know what you're doing?

He-he. Don't worry...

WHAM

... this will only take a moment!

Voilà! Triple shielding deactivated!

All clear, guys.

At that moment my heart was pounding...

CLACK

I had never imagined that I would **desecrate** the High Witch's lair.

What is...

A *dislocation* spell I should have seen that coming!

Basically that door is a *portal* to the *real place* where the High Witch resides!

What do we do now? No one mentioned *boiling magma!*

WA-ZAM

It's alive too, Jamie!

And to answer your question...

SHRAKK

... we just have to make a run for it!

Here's the *library*. I imagined Marelia as a minimalistic, high-tech office type.

But her lair is in an *active volcano*.

What a classic choice.

Scan done, guys.

WOOOSH

All the alarm systems are down!

What are these?

They're... they're so cuteee!

I wonder why my aunt raises baby dragons.

Focus! We need to find the...

The Book of Doom: I would recognize it anywhere!

All right, *Mr. Encyclopedia*, let's go.

Just as it is described in *Ignatius Van Ploom's Night Chronicles*, or in the *Atlas of Madness* by...

Now let's find a way to *cover our tracks.*

What are you doing?!

A little trick. *Marelia* is not stupid...

Woooo

When she comes back she would realize right away that something is missing.

Cool! A *Mimesis!*

You've created a *perfect copy* of the Book of Doom!

Now let's get the heck out of here.

I don't like this place.

I have a bad feeling about it.

Everything about my aunt has that *feeling*. You'll get used to it.

Okay, it's more than a "feeling".

Where did the *volcano* go?!

And the baby dragons?!

SSSSSHHHHLLRRRR

Clearly this is a *translating building*...

So it randomly moves from one *horrible place* to another?

How do we find the exit now?!

W-what are those?!

Tsk! *Mirror-spiders*, I'd say.

SSSSSSHHHHLLRRRR

Are they dangerous?

Guard monsters so *loyal* they take on their master's likeness.

Very! RUN!

WHAMM

Was I really... sacrificing myself for my friends?

HISSSSSSSSS

Maybe. Or maybe, *I didn't want to have those two on my conscience.*

WHAMM

WHAMM

That's it! This way, you awful beasts!!

WHAMM

I was so mad at Marelia, that smashing those monsters with her face was a great way to let off steam.

NA-ZAM

So I'm the family disgrace, huh?! TAKE THAT!!

Too bad that I ended up ***overdoing it*** *as usual...*

How many are there? I'm running out of energy!

SSSSSSHHHHLLRRRR

SKREEEEEEE

Ha!!

TLACK

L-lexi?

I was too annoyed to leave you alone.

Yes, I followed you into your house and through that stupid magic door.

Your ***household hands*** followed me here.

Yes, I know some spells too.

Mostly ones to ***set things on fire*** and ***destroy them.***

F-THOOM F-THOOM F-THOOM

Any more ***unnecessary*** questions?

Anf... I guess not.

Clear and comprehensive.

Excellent.

Follow us, guys!

The exit is this way!

*Soon after, the door to Marelia's quarters was **sealed** again and everyone else headed home.*

*To the three of them, Lava Mutants and Mirror-spiders were less scary than the **scolding** they were likely to get at home for breaking curfew.*

As for me, I had all night to try to break into the **Book of Doom.**

Theo is an ace at magical *lock-picking*...

But even he couldn't figure out how to open these locks.

They look ancient...

It's like they're fused with the cover. No idea how they can be opened.

With their respective *keys.*

It's pretty obvious.

!!

So the voice I heard was yours...

Well, of course. I'm the only one here.

I've been trying to communicate with you for a long time. I can feel it, Magica De Spell... we *complete each other.* I want to be read by somebody after centuries of oblivion.

You, on the other hand, want to leaf through my pages and seize the power they contain...

Shut that *padlock* you have for a mouth! Only *I* decide what I want to do.

Hey!

What's the matter with you?

SBAM

I need *Meden* to cancel the effects of Corax, that's all. Tell me about the three keys.

The electrum key. The argentan key. The orichalcum key. *I don't know* where they are.

You can see them. Marlynus used them to seal me. He thought the spells I contain were too *dangerous*.

He must have hidden them somewhere.

Magica!

I-I don't know what's happening to you, but I don't like it.

And I don't like that book... take it back to your aunt's rooms, will you? Seriously, I have a bad--

You shut up too!

I'll make you normal again, *if it's the last thing I do.*

Is that clear?

As for you. Are you offering me a deal?

I'll take it.

We'll find the keys and I'll set you free.

And you'll give me Meden in return. Deal?

Oh, sure! I ask for no better, my friend.

I ask for no better...

It took me a couple of days to figure out where those stupid keys were...

Of course, Jaime, Theo and Lexi were eager to help me retrieve them.

We combed through all the libraries in the city.

Looking for every single page ever written about Marlynus...

Searching for any detail that might be useful in figuring out where he had buried them.

Meanwhile, **Marelia** had returned from her conference on vampirism.

She still wouldn't speak to me. She was too absorbed in her own business...

She had not yet noticed that I had snuck into her rooms and replaced the Book of Doom with a **replica.**

We'll get to that ***tourist trap*** shortly.

Ha! The thrill of adventure!

Don't you guys love it?

Not at all!

It's pouring, it's freezing cold, and ***something*** might come out of the forest at any moment and try to tear us apart!

Ow, what a lot of fuss, Jaime... Theo is right.

Setting out to hunt for treasure is cool.

We're ***playing hooky!*** If my parents find out, they'll ground me until college!

They won't, Jaime, okay?

The plan we came up with is ***foolproof!***

Nobody will notice those four Bone-molders that Magica got us, he-he!

My compliments, kids! You're so ***attentive*** and ***quiet*** today!

Besides, *you* were the one who told us that Marlynus is likely to have hidden one of the keys in his old *castle*, right?

Yes, at least according to *Solomon Quemada's "Chronicles of Torment"*...

But now his fortress is a pile of rubble! Magical archaeology is serious business!

What do we hope to achieve by wandering through *ruins?*

You're such a bore!

I'm sure we'll find it, right, De Spell?

Now that we're useful to you, you're not snubbing us anymore, are you?

Huh?...

Of course we will succeed!

Um! O-of course we will succeed...

Are you... talking in my head again?

Be careful how you act. I don't want those three to suspect anything *about us.*

This will remain a *secret* between the two of us, okay?

Agreed. Better not to expose ourselves to them and Gennaro... for now.

But Jaime is right, I have no idea how we're going to find the electrum key.

Just take care of getting me to Marlynus's fortress... *trust me.*

MARLYNUS · PARK ·

Now what? I told you. It has been 1001 years since the time of Marlynus.

There is nothing here but ***rubble*** and souvenir stores!

Tour

The key must be here somewhere!

According to the volume you found, Marlynus hid it in an inaccessible place in his fortress...

Which has been destroyed over centuries of ***earthquakes***, ***winged troll*** sieges and other catastrophes!

What isn't ***clear*** to you?

Oh, yes...

Keep moving ***forward*** in this direction, Magica!

Huh? Why is that?

I can feel its ***presence***... the electrum key is ***near***!

Oh, this is the ancient ***gateway*** to the fortress.

Thaddeus Umbra, in his "***Guide to Famous Haunted Castles***", shared a weird fact...

You... can sense it?

Every ***lock*** can sense its ***key***... it's over there, under that archway!

De Spell? Where are you going? Wait!

After Marlynus disappeared, the other wizards discovered that the front door of his castle had ***vanished.***

Maybe it had been burned to ashes by a dragon attack...

Or maybe... it had been made to disappear by the High Sorcerer himself for some reason?

Let me try an ***anti-concealment spell...***

WHUUUU

HOOOOOO

No way! The fortress door... how did you know?

Uh... just a stroke of luck.

No one at all. Look at that! The ***knocker!***

Nope. You knew. Who are you trying to fool?

It's the ***electrum key!***

See? Easy as ***lighting a candle!***

CREKK

We left the pile of rubble to return to the city. There was still a lot to do...

Huh... where did this come from? Don't remember it at all!

Next stop: the Museum of the **Secret History of Magic**...

MVSEVM

I managed to freeze all the **guarding Gargoyles** in one fell swoop!

Skipping school, snatching a valuable archaeological report, and now sneaking into a public building after closing time...

Our criminal career is taking off, he-he!

As long as we don't do any damage! Now, here it is...

That's one of Marlynus's few personal effects that has been preserved...

His ancient ***silver astrolabe!***

And you think the ***argentan key*** would be hidden inside it?

Seriously?

Yes, Lexi... I'm sure of it...

It's close! Very close! Search! Search! ***Search!***

W-we just have to search for it carefully...

There it is!

CREKKKK

WHOOOOOMP

Urgh! Marlynus put a defense system on this one!

Sorry, I should have *checked!*

W-what are those?!

HRRRRRRR

I'll take care of them...

HISSSSSSSS

SNAP

You're not our boss. We'll take care of them together!

BRAAAAM

WOOOOSHH

CRAAAASHHH

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!

I'm hardly **proud** of the damage we caused to the museum's treasures...

But at that moment I was thinking only of Meden and Gennaro...

Or at least, so I **thought**. After losing the **zodiac specters**, we planned to meet up the next morning.

To retrieve the last key. The **orichalcum** one.

This time, if you sense the presence of ***magic traps*** you tell me, understood?

Understood.

And where do you think you're going, my dear?

Curious... since *when* does she care?

Curious... since *when* do you care?

Um... I...

Well, let's see...

Since *I found out* that you're skipping school!

Since *I have reason to think* that you were involved in the disaster that occurred last night at the Secret History Museum.

Since I *suspect* that someone broke into my rooms while I was away.

I will only ask you once. *What* are you up to? Something to discredit this family again?

Was it *you* who blocked the security systems at the Museum? I didn't think you capable of *such a thing!*

It's none of h... busin...

It's... it's none of your business, Marelia.

You're just trying to help

I'm just trying to help a friend!

every... A fri...

A friend everyone abandoned except me!

Still looking for a way to break Corax? That's *crazy!*

It i... su...

It isn't! I will succeed!

ENOUGH!

You will not leave here until further notice!

SHAZAMMMM

No one...
No one...
No one...
NO ONE...

... CAN AFFORD TO TELL ME...

... WHAT I MUST OR MUST NOT DO!!

AGH!!

SHRAAAAATCK

WAAAAAAAAAM

A-all this power...

... how did you *get it?*

There is no *family* left to discredit, Marelia.

Maybe there never was. As of now, I *decide for myself.*

I think the time has come for me to go my own way.

... time to meet the others to retrieve the last key!

Er... are we sure this is the right direction?

It's so confusing here!

One problem at a time, buddy.

For starters, I'd worry about those *things*...

HRRRRRLLLL

HISSSSSSSS

GRAAAAHH

They don't look *friendly*.

Well, neither are *we!*

WHAMM

Look out, De Spell!

F-THOOM

You're starting to like her after all, huh?

Phooey! Can you imagine the trouble we'd be in if she ended up munched by those beasts?

Anyway...

Doesn't she seem *weirder* than usual this morning?

She hasn't said a thing... it's like her mind is somewhere else.

You're almost there, my friend... it's close, very close...

The last key, the *orichalcum* one, is right at the top of this mountain...

WHAMM

SKRIEEEEE

You found it! Bravo, Magica!

WHOOM!

The problem is that those things are multiplying!

Don't worry, I'll take care of ***keeping them down...***

BLAMMM

Not that I don't trust your attack spells, Lexi, but...

It's time to go back to that ***portal*** thingy, what do you think?

Agreed!

UHHHHRRRR

BONK

Let's duck out before we become their ***brunch!***

Over there! That's where we ***entered*** this ***parallel universe!***

Well, I hope the portal works going in and out...

Only one way to find out, right?

FTZZZZZZZZZ...

WA-ZAMMM

Ouch!!

BONK

That's amazing! It worked!

We really visited one of the *paintings-worlds* of *Athanasyus Belmont*, the famed *hallucination painter!*

Supposedly he was one of *Marlynus' disciples...*

It makes sense that one of the three keys had been hidden *inside* one of his bewitched paintings!

Glad you enjoyed yourselves, but... how about we *keep* ducking out?

May I remind you that we snuck into the *Museum of Cursed Art* by forcing *dozens* of alarms?!

Uhm...

If a security guard catches us in here, we'll go straight to the police station!

You sure you're fine?

Fine? I'm *great*, Lexi.

We have the book. We have the keys. *Meden* is mine.

Now all we have to do is get to the proper place to *cast it...*

The **highest** point in this stupid city...

CADABRA

Very good.

You came to the rendezvous, as we agreed...

Magica... I'm a bit ***worried***...

It's ***ironic***. This whole mess started right here at the Cadabra Hotel.

Maybe it's fitting that ***this*** is where I'm going to release you from ***Corax***.

I... I'm not *sure* that's a good idea...

CLACK

CLACK

Dad told me what happened *at your house* this morning...

... about your *confrontation* with Marelia...

I don't like that *book* at all.

Something weird is going on.

I... I don't recognize you anymore! Listen...

I *don't want* to be human again...

... if the price to pay is to see *you* transformed like this! Magica...

Can you hear me?

Be quiet.

After all I've done to retrieve the book and the keys, do you really think I'm going *to stop* now?

I will cast that spell.

CLACK

And I will prove to *everyone* what I am *capable of.*

WOOOOOOOO

Wooooooosh

SHHHHHHHH

Who...?

I think it's... it's...

It's *Marlynus*, Jaime... do you still not get it?

His spirit has been trapped for a thousand years in the pages of the book.

He was the one speaking to me...

And you've listened to me carefully, my friend.

We are not friends. But we have a *deal*.

You wanted to be *freed* from the prison you were confined in by your successor, didn't you?

Now you are.

So keep your promise, *dark writer*. I want *Meden!*

... Meden, you say?...

Ftzzz...

Of course!

CREAAAKKKK

After all, that's *what we're here for*, right?

To nullify the effect of any spell...

WOOOOOOSSSHHHH

And that's exactly what is going to happen!

Hang on.

WHAAAM!

Wow! That's great!

Something's wrong...

It's as if the spell is...

... fading awaaAAAAY!!

PLOP

FTZZZ...

Oh, yes... *Meden* cancels out the effects of every other spell...

Because it *devours all existing magical energy...*

All of it, down to the last particle...

It will disappear from this world!

WOOOOOOHHH

In these 1001 years of *captivity* I have had the chance to *observe you all.*

Look at yourselves... look at *what* this world has become!

You keep the most powerful spells locked up in dusty *libraries*...

You bury *powerful artifacts* in your museums...

You use *magical energy* to light your houses...

To run your *cars* and your stupid household appliances...

You *buy* and *sell* it like any other commodity!

MAGIC... YOU ARE NO LONGER WORTHY OF IT!!

WOOOOOOOOOHHHH

So... let chaos reign again!

Let the dark ages return!

Let the glorious times return when ALL MAGIC was in the hands of the High Sorcerer!!

We're *out of fuel*, folks.

I can't even cast *half a spell!*

FTZZZ...

PLOP

Magica... you okay?

No, I'm not okay!

That creep manipulated me, tricked me...

...Used me for his own purposes! How do you think I should be?

Jaime... Theo... Lexi... I... I'm sorry!

I drew you into this madness.

All because I wanted to prove to Marelia that I was worthy of her...

I-I don't even know where to begin to apologize to you...

C-CREEAAKK

Apology accepted, Magica.

Anyway, time is up.

Does anyone have any last words?

With no magic to support them, the letters are falling...

This is it: now we're screwed!

C-CREEAAKK

BOOOM

Yes. I don't accept your apology at all, De Spell.

You've been an idiot.

This is not the time for fighting, guys...

Ratface?!

Come on! Try to grab my hand...

... if you don't want to become *wizard pancakes!*

C-CREKKKK

Meden... it worked on you too!

Yeah... but at what *cost?*

I tried to tell you.

Better to be a *crow* for eternity than for there to be no magic at all!

I... I...

You were right... it's all my fault...

Stop whining!

Marlynus is to blame!

He's evil, he wants to destroy the World of Magic and... and we have to *stop him!*

Any ideas on *how* to do that, genius?

Maybe it doesn't make a difference to you... but let me remind you that we're out of spells!

We'll come up with something...

M-Mrs. Marelia...

I was a *fool.*

I realized too late that you had stolen the ***Book of Doom*** from my library.

And that it had been exerting its ***dark influence*** on my niece for some time already.

You are right, dear. We must ***react.***

As soon as I sensed what was about to happen, I gathered the most powerful ***wizards.***

They are already **engaging in battle** with Marlynus.

Is that all you can do?!

PITIFUL!!

Using the last bit of **magic** they have in an attempt to **distract him!**

WA-ZAMM

I'm passing through to join him on the roof.

And I'll settle accounts with him once and for all.

Marelia... *auntie!*

Please... let me come with you.

Jaime is wrong.

What happened... is all *my fault!*

I want to fix it... to help you!!

Would you listen if I said no?

I don't think so.

You'd still do what you wanted as usual, right?

Let's get moving, Magica.

Has ***Meden*** drained all your magic, or do you think you still have some left over?

I'm not sure...

Try not to do anything stupid. Believe it or not...

I couldn't bear to ***lose you.***

Marelia... I... I...

I should have listened to you. Decisions can't always be made alone.

But neither can one take ***all the blame*** if something goes wrong.

I'm to blame too.

I didn't see how much you were struggling.

The ***pressure*** you were under.

The anxiety.

The ***fear*** of not being good enough.

Those are the ***doors*** through which Marlynus was able to creep into your heart.

And I should know those kinds of feelings ***well...***

They're ***the same ones*** I have every day, too.

Auntie... are you... ***afraid*** too?

Enough... we're here.

It's time to send that ancient sorcerer back where he belongs...

... between the yellowed pages of an **old book.**

I warned you poor idiots...

Magic is not a silly game!

Not one of you can really use it anymore!

No one can compete with a High Sorcerer!

Are you sure about that, dear *ancestor?*

Well, then, let's see what you can do against ***two High Witches.***

Do we have a *plan?*

WA-ZAMMM

WA-ZAMMM

I'll try to hold him back.

You'll get back the Book of Doom. It is the ***simulacrum*** of Marlynus.

His spirit is bound to the book. ***Destroy it.*** It's the only way to get rid of him.

WA-ZAMMM

WA-ZAMMM

WA-ZAMMM

WA-ZAMMM

GO!!

THOOOOMM

FTZZZ...

SKREAAKK

Come on... where did you go?!

WAAAAAAMM

Oh... how much *residual power*... No wonder you still have *magical energy* at your disposal!

After all, the same blood flows in our veins... ... my dear *descendant!*

!

But you're forgetting that *time* is on my side!

Meden is still active!!

!!

SHLLACK

WHUDDD

Your energy is now almost *exhausted*...

!!

... mine will keep *increasing* more and more!

G-CREEEKK

I beat you. You are not *worthy* of your role!

THOOM

!!

Have you forgotten already, you bag of bones?

FTZZZ...

You have to face *two* High Witches!

Release my aunt! Or I will destroy the book!

And may I ask *how* you plan to do that, *my friend?*

I myself bound it with the bark of the *Willow of Fate*...

A most rare plant, *refractory* to magical energy. There is only *one spell* capable of overcoming it and no one but me knows what it is.

You look *tired*... I guess you only have enough energy left to cast *one spell*...

You only get one chance!

KA-THOOMMM

uuhhn...

Such a shame, *Magica*. I had *high hopes* for you.

In the last few days I've been able to feel all your *anger*.

I've come to realize how much you and I are *alike*, deep down.

You could have been my *perfect heir*.

We could have ruled together over this world that has never accepted *our superiority*! What a *disappointment*!

Ruling together, you say? Nonsense. You *tricked* me and used me to achieve your own goals, that's all...

And that's what makes me *angry* most of all.

You had high hopes for me, huh?

Everybody always does.

And eventually I *let them down*. Well, you know what?

I realized *I don't give a damn*.

WHOOOSSH

You talk about ruling... but those days are over, dear *ancestor*. High Witches and Sorcerers are not the *masters* of magical energy. But its *keepers*.

You come from a past that no longer exists... and it's time for you to return to it!

W-what?! IMPOSSIBLE!!

The Book of Doom... on fire? What sorcery have you used?!

Only *Isoceraunos* can damage the bark of the *Willow of Fate*...

Iso... ceraunos?!

Nnh... that's... the ancient name for the *double lightning* spell!

FIZZZ...

Just what I wanted to know...

A DUPLICATE!

SNAP

You... you created a duplicate of the *book* and pretended to *destroy it!*

Yeah, hoping *you* would tell me how to *incinerate* the *real one!*

So, thank you very much...

WA-ZOOM!

... my friend!

CRRRAAAAKKK

I've already told you!

You're ON YOUR LAST LEGS!

You don't have enough magic left to cast a SECOND LIGHTNING BOLT!

SKREEEEEEE

WA-ZAMM

And why should she do it *all by herself?*

We have a few drops of ***magic*** left to squeeze, too.

Gennaro!

Hisssssss...

FTZZZ...

Y-you won't dare!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

CRRREEEAKK

WHAMM

WHAMM

WHAMM

Down, zombie face!

De Spell...

Just hurry up and disintegrate the stupid book!

CRRRRRRKKKK

Gennaro... if we defeat Marlynus...

... if ***Meden*** disappears...

I'll be a crow again. *I know.*

You never listen to me, do you?

AKKRRAAAKK

I don't care at all. *Let's just do it!*

WHOOO

Wow! Look at this!
A moment ago we were almost dry...
And now I'm *full of energy* again!
Well done, darling...
The effect of *Meden* is fading away...
Everything is going back to the way it was!
That means...
Gennaro! No!
Uuuuuhhh...
FTZZZ...
No! NO!
Do you ever listen to what I say, you stubborn girl?
If the price to pay was to *lose you*...
... to lose everything...
Way *better* to stick with being a crow... at least for now!

This is preposterous, insane, unprecedented!

Such a disaster hasn't happened in *centuries*.

We took a tremendous risk.

... and all because of *your niece*, Marelia.

She *resurrected* spells we didn't even know still existed, used a *forbidden book* and summoned one of the *most dangerous Sorcerers* of all time!

She almost destroyed the city! That girl... she's a public menace!

Yet... in the end she was *the one who saved us*.

No point dancing around it...

Responsibility for what happened is *mine*.

As the High Witch, but more importantly her *aunt*.

I should have watched over her.

Paid more attention to her.

And... guarded the books in my library better.

Regardless, that *little disgrace* must be removed! Banished! Exiled!

Exiled? What are you talking about? You've all seen her *talent*. She could be an asset to our community.

Besides, Magica was *not herself*. She was under the *influence* of the Book of Doom.

I would like that to be true...

But no. I wasn't.

Marlynus played on my pride. On my insecurity...

On my *fear of not being good enough.*

I just wanted to undo the damage I had done...

To return *Gennaro* to his original form. And I'm sorry...

But *I haven't changed my mind* about that.

He is my best friend.

I owe it to him.

Magica... you have shown everyone that you have the skills to become the next *High Witch*. With the proper training...

... you could become a far more worthy guardian of Magic... than I am.

Could I? Perhaps.

But for now I have no wish to take your place. And it wouldn't be fair, after putting you all in danger.

Did someone mention *exile?*

That might be a good idea.

I've never seen the world out there...

What's all this about?

Do you *really* want to go out there on your own?

All alone?

That's... that's dangerous!

I know it is, Jamie.

And I think you know me well enough by now...

... to know that ***dangerous things*** are kinda my thing.

It's best for everyone if I stay away from ***civilization***, at least for a while.

You should stop feeling guilty about what happened.

The World of Magic is wide and mysterious... I am going to take the opportunity to get to ***know it***.

That's right, De Spell!

You saved us! You defeated the Dark Writer...

You proved that you can do ***whatever you want***.

Right now there's only one thing I want.

Also, you're wrong.

Without your help, I wouldn't have accomplished anything... ***my friends***.

But...

... will you come back?

FRRRRRR

I know that somewhere out there...

There must be a spell... a potion... a ***talisman*** that can turn you back. And I will find it.

Wrong, you stubborn girl. ***We will find it.***

And even if we don't...

I'm sure the trip will be a blast!

THE END