

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss.

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A Quick Read

I'm happy to announce that another one of my stories is now in print.

Fear is a story I wrote in response to a writing prompt – Write a story in 26 sentences, with each sentence starting with the letters A through Z in order.

At first thought it wasn't that hard of a challenge, but as always it got much harder once I started writing. After a couple of false start I happened upon a thought. As the story gets near the end, ready for the climax, the letters X, Y and Z come along. The thought was, *lets name the main characters with names that started with Y and Z.*

With that in mind I started writing again and wrote the story in one take. To honor my latest story, and maybe encourage you to pick up a copy online or a signed one from me, here is another A to Z story.

* * *

Annay sat on the hard wooden chair, remembering all the years growing up when she had sat in the same chair while doing her studying.

Brian placed a tea pot and a single cup on the table in front of her, bring her back from her thoughts to the reason she sat here now.

Curiosity had brought her back home, that, and knowledge that Master Gees would want to know as well.

Distracted by Brian's movements around the room, Annay didn't notice that Master Gees had entered the room until he spoke.

"Each puzzle piece is important, when it is the whole we seek to know."

"Feeling like she was a kid again, being questioned by her Master, Annay told her story."

"Going west from the fork in the great road, we came to a cave at the end of a narrow ravine. Hector studied the glyphs that were carved into the rock around the cave entrance and said that they held vile magic which we would be wise to be wary of."

"Inside the cave, partly hidden by moss and shadow, we could see a chest, but we could also see rusted trip wires running from it into the stone of the walls."

"Just to make things worst, we didn't have to just worry about magic and physical traps, but the sun was low on the horizon and night beasts are known to hunt in the area."

"Keep going", Master said as a shutter ran through Annay's muscles, "I know it is hard, but it is important."

"Moving carefully," She continued, "Julie stepped into the cave, making sure that her feet didn't touch any of the trip wires or disturb any of the piles of stone or moss, and she made her way to the chest. Night seem to come suddenly as we are all dropped into darkness and silence."

"Out of that darkness, Julie came diving, the chest tucked under her arm, followed by a torrent of rocks and dust, all in a surreal silence like it was a dream."

"Panic also filled us, probably from the magical glyphs, causing us to run as if for our lives. Quarter of a mile away, we collapsed in exhaustion."

"Radian light shown from a crack in the chest as it lay smashed against a rock where Julie had dropped it as she fell to the ground."

"Sorrow filled us as the light fell upon us, making us know that we had lost more than we could ever know; then it was gone."

"Thank you Annay," Master said in a quiet and controlled voice. "Under other conditions I might think your feelings were justified, but I think this time you were lucky indeed."

"Valor is what the stone in the chest would have bestowed on the person who held it, a valor that would have pushed all personal concerns aside. Without concern that person would have charged into danger and would have surely died."

"Exposure to its light may have given you all a boost to your bravery. Yet remember. Zeal is something that is better chosen than imposed upon you."

Doug Clarke