



Sample file

FORBIDDEN ARCANIA



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INTRODUCTION

The world of magic is infinite. For everything you know, there are a hundred things, a million things, that you don't. You learn how magic works, you learn how mana is ordered, then you learn that everything you had been taught was wrong. That if you just look at it from a different angle, the whole system of magic becomes something entirely different. And maybe it isn't even a system, or at least not an orderly one.

Forbidden Arcana is all about exploring the back roads and dark corners of magic, discovering the hidden truths that tell you how little you knew in the first place—and how much more power is waiting to be grabbed. It starts with **Seeing the Invisible World**, a guide for both Awakened and non-Awakened about what magic looks like in practice. If you want to geek the mage first, this is your guide to recognizing who is doing the casting. And if you're a mage, here are some of the tells people will be looking for if they want to recognize what you're up to.

Next is **Magical Mastery**. While it would be great to live long enough to be a master of all forms of arcane arts, very few of us are dragons or immortal elves, so we are often best served by choosing an area to master, becoming better at it than anyone else. This chapter is your guide to selecting where to excel and how to do it.

Then we have **Traditions**, one of the most

notable ways the Awakened differentiate themselves from their peers. With both new and updated traditions, this provides info on how to shape magic with your beliefs—or have your beliefs shaped by magic. New mentor spirits are also included here.

The book then truly delves into the realm of the forbidden with **Blood Magic**. Most mages know about the dark paths of those who would inflict pain on others to gain power for themselves, but this chapter paints the art in a different light, showing those who practice blood magic with aims that might be called “good”—insofar as that label can be applied to anything in the Sixth World.

Where the Wild Things Are dives into the realms of wild spirits, untamed and unruly beings whose power may be tapped by brave conjurers—if they can bear the possible cost to themselves.

Finally, **Advanced Alchemy** offers tools, ideas, reagents, compounds, and more to make alchemy more effective and more dangerous.

All these are secrets available to those who have put in the effort to learn them, and who have paid whatever price is asked of them. They may have come to a new awareness of how much they have left to learn, but they possess one precious truth: No matter how much they don't know, they now know a little than the people they'll be running into on the streets.

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A WALK IN THE PARK

A light snow covered the ground and tumbled gently from the sky, painting a picturesque scene of peace and tranquility over the streets. It was a rare thing. Snow in Seattle was not common, and peace in Redmond was even rarer. The snow was keeping trouble indoors for now and left Abby to stroll the streets on her way home from another late night at Stacy Sweets' Diner.

The peaceful scene lightened her heart, but her mind was still Redmond Barrens born and raised. She saw the snow on the ground as a way to mark the passage or presence of people. The snow was a mixed blessing, as it muffled noise, making it both harder to be heard and hear others. The chill air and slippery streets kept go-gangers in their garages and cooled the heads of thrill-gangs for the night.

She enjoyed the peace of the streets and the false beauty that was laid out over the urban decay and detritus of Redmond, but the quiet night presented a rare opportunity for her to take a different route home. She cut down an alley, checking for tracks or signs of life before taking the darkened path that would lead her towards BI Park, known as Bought Park to most locals. The BI stood for Brackhaven Investments, the former governor's financial firm, that had funded the revitalization of the park as a bit of PR during the governor's tenure in office. The effort had benefited Brackhaven far more than the local community because his construction contracts raked

in the money from the high-cost urban redevelopment project while locals were hassled and abused by the increased Knight Errant presence during construction.

Regardless of local opinions, the final result was a wide expanse of grass, trees, and bushes built within a patch of rolling ground, with winding paths and a beautiful open fairway at the center that might actually have local children gliding down it tomorrow on anything slippery enough to sled on. For now that space would be a massive field of white within a winter wonderland of the type that Seattle rarely saw.

Minutes later, Abby was not disappointed as she stood at the mouth of another alley staring across the street at the white-topped wall of evergreen bushes that ringed the park. The metal archway with the script BI at its peak was covered in a thin layer of white, contrasting beautifully with its dark wrought iron. Beneath the archway, the footpath leading into the park was devoid of any marring prints.

Abby changed that quickly. Once inside the maze of tall evergreen shrubs, her senses opened to the cold and snow rather than the possible dangers of the streets. She laid her head back and opened her mouth wide. Tongue out, she enjoyed the combined sensations of snow gently landing and melting on her face and in her mouth. Her stroll was filled with moments that would stay with her forever, but the cold, combined with too many cups of soykaf, threatened to cut it short.

