

Magic Everything

A Novel

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Chapter 1

“Is anyone awake yet, anyone awake?! I need to know where is Darcy! Thirsty, Thomas, come here and come here right now! I swear if you don’t I will probably not survive!” yells Richard Nickel loudly and coily as he lays there in bed with strings holding up his legs and tubes in his chest pumping in medication to keep him alive. He is fully bearded with grey streaks through his mid-length black hair, as well as he has arrow shaped eyebrows. He stands all of 6 foot 3 inches tall with a wry smile and wears his daily purple and red trimmed robe.

His two sons Thirsty age 13 and Thomas age 11 are asleep in slanted 45 degree bunk beds. There is a spiral wooden staircase that leads up through the middle of the beds to Thirsty’s bed on top.

Richard worries their older sister Darcy Feather is hurt or has gone somewhere without permission. He needs her to give him a back massage and quick, because he is feeling pain.

Richard’s bedroom is filled with dim light from a dust covered window. It has several costumes he uses to scare and make the kids laugh, that hang from hooks around the small bedroom. The painting of his beloved wife and mother to his children Kelly Love as he called her (who has perished) hangs at the foot of his bed with the inscription, “I loved my family, because they didn’t know the difference, just kidding love Mom,” in gold letters. Every time Richard looks at it and reads the inscription he tears up slightly.

Thirsty and Thomas run out of their slanted floor bedroom and across the long wooden hallway that leads to Richard’s room (with sleepy-eyed smiles on their faces). They go as fast as their little legs can run.

Thirsty knows it is his job to watch the wild child Darcy and keep her from disgracing the family anymore. Thirsty is the sensible one and always tries to help any person he can. Unless of course they are

bad people, then he is said to stick it to them awful. Thirsty stands 5 foot 4 inches tall and is painfully thin. He has short dark brown hair that goes down to his eyes in the front. He is handsome and has baby blue thoughtful eyes (that the girls go crazy for). He loves wearing the suits Darcy will make for him, as she always makes him a gum and nickel pocket secretly hidden inside the actual pocket. She does that because Thirsty doesn't like people trying to steal his gum and there is no way he is letting them steal his lucky nickel.

When Thirsty had been a baby his parent's fed him over and over again and gave him all the milk and water he could drink. He continued crying loudly for hours until Kelly dropped a nickel out of her pocket. Thirsty stopped crying immediately. When she handed him the nickel he smiled and started giggling. From that moment on every time they wanted Thirsty to stop crying they showed him the nickel, end of story, and that's how he got his name. He just loves to guzzle any beverage you got, thus Thirsty.

Thomas is 4 foot 11 inches tall and strikingly handsome, as he looks like a smaller version of Thirsty. He has a small potbelly from eating too many borrowed for good strawberries and drinking cow's milk. His eyes are almost clear blue and he has red hair that goes down to just above his eyes in the front. He has big feet and he walks like he's knows something you don't. He is wearing a lime green t-shirt that reads, "I'm letting you borrow my girlfriend, but she doesn't know it yet," that Darcy had sewn for him. He also has some patched together blue jeans that Darcy had made for him. He is wearing his dark brown homemade sneakers that have a lightning bolt down the side (they are made from thrown away shoes).

"Dadums, why are you yelling we were sleeping with dream people?! Gosh, Dadums, don't we get to sleep too for God's sake? Well, what did you want this time?" asks Thirsty sadly and in his soft spoken way (Thirsty really wants to sleep in all morning and then go hunt some bugs for a pie).

Thomas runs into the room, stops at Thirsty almost drunkenly and smiles at Richard. Richard grins slightly and points to his little bed beside his own where Darcy is supposed to be sleeping and Thirsty lets out a sigh.

“That’s right, My Lovely Boys, Darcy has ditched us! We need to find her before she ruins her life. Now I could be wrong, as I am every 10 years, but I don’t think I am in the wrong,” explains Richard as he scratches his chin vigorously. “So here’s what, I want you to go and search this house. And the first boy that finds Darcy gets a piece of my candy bar from last night. That’s a sweet deal, seeing as there’s a whole bite left. Now be rid of me, and find your sister as fast as lightning!” says Richard firmly as he coughs in between sentences and grimaces, but then waves for them to go looking.

Thomas really needs that candy bar, because he hasn’t tasted a bit of chocolate since he found a bite of chocolate in the trash 4 months earlier.

Thirsty darts out of the room after fighting with Thomas briefly, as he wants that chocolate bad as it’s his favorite food in the whole world. He looks first in the small dining room in the converted train car, but he sees no signs of Darcy only a half eaten bird wing sandwich perched on the mushroom shaped bright red spotted table. This angers Thirsty as he rushes out of the room, but out of the corner of his eye he sees a shiny gold helmet with the imprint of a large bird devouring a man. And to Thirsty this is not anything he has ever seen or ever would. He looks at it and wonders if it can be sold for actual groceries in the future, as he rubs the helmet and his own belly on the right side.

Thomas runs around yelling his battle cry and looks for Darcy. He ducks into the crooked 2 person reading box attached to the house library. He sees there is no sign of Darcy in the white horned reading helmet or sitting in the dragon shaped red and green reading chair. He knows she virtually lives in there when she is home so he is none too happy about this.

“THIRSTY!” yells Thomas as he shakes his head.

“What, Thomas!”

“Are you lazy yet? I am! So what about that stuffy, hmm?” asks Thomas warmly as he grins.

“Thomas, I’m only tired of listening to your yap. Keep looking!” says Thirsty sharply as he sighs.

“Werty goop, Werty goop I need that chocolate or my head will fall off. Come on, Darcy, where are you hiding? Werty goop, Werty goop, I am not happy,” says Thomas sadly as he looks around and shakes his head over and over again. Thomas knows he is not going to get the chocolate and he can already taste the bug pie in his mouth and just the thought makes him sick to his stomach. He wishes for a nice rose covered in syrup to eat.

Thirsty hears Thomas swearing when he says Werty goop (which is the same as saying the f word, because it is Richard’s favorite person to hate). He told the boys not to say his name, but he also told them not to swear and Thomas can’t think of a better swear word for the life of him.

Thirsty walks over to Thomas and slaps him on the hip and grabs his ear. Thomas lets out quite a yell and jumps up and down as Thirsty pulls him around the corner. Thirsty lets him go and nudges his shoulder. Thomas nods yes and gives Thirsty a look that tells him he won’t do it again.

“We have to find Darcy or we’ll have to dig Dad’s ditch. I don’t want any digging for me today, Thomas, so help me out alright?” asks Thirsty warmly as he grabs Thomas on the chin and moves his head around in a circle.

“Help, my help costs chocolate. How ‘bout new plan? All chocolate goes to me, or I sleep on the rug. Boy it’s so comfy down here mm I love it,” says Thomas warmly and coyly as he grins and stretches out on the rug. Thomas knows Thirsty just doesn’t want to dig so maybe he’ll just let him have the chocolate if he helps look.

Thirsty stands there and grins and then he pushes his feet into the side of Thomas. Thirsty knows Thomas is being his devious self, but still he knows he doesn’t want to dig.

“Fine, you can have it all, but your body seems to be sleeping on the rug right now. I’m just wondering how it’s going to help, hmm?”

Thomas rolls over and gently bats away Thirsty’s feet.

“It’s o.k. I think I stopped a second ago. Yeah I think I’m awake. Boy that’s lucky and not the bad kind either. Ok so I feel ready,” says Thomas as stretches out his arm into Thirsty’s cheek, while Thomas can already taste the chocolate.

“It’s not ok, Thomas, be smarter I don’t like pulling your ear. Now let’s go find Darcy and we better find her quick! Where do you think she could be hiding, Thomas?” asks Thirsty firmly as he and Thomas walk along and look around for their beloved Darcy.

Thomas can only shrug his shoulders and point in every direction (as he has no idea where she is). Richard laughs quietly as he hears the boys talking and he knows they’re sneaky, but they are good boys under it all.

“BOYS, you’re not finding her if you’re talking!! Find me Darcy and do it post haste!” yells Richard loudly and happily as he smiles and sips on his glass of water and a lemon peel. He knows that Thirsty and Thomas are prone to getting off track and they have to be guided to do tasks. It is Richard’s job to guide them properly into adulthood, but he also knows they are mischievous and he can’t fault them for that.

Thirsty hears this as does Thomas and they run right into one another. This knocks the helmet right out of Thirsty’s hands. He scrambles to pick it back up as Thomas tries to take it from him. Thomas knows he can sell it for big bucks and get some food he can actually *chew*.

The morning crows start to caw and flap their wings against the window. They are blocking out most of the sunlight as they wait ominously for Richard to die. Richard hates the crows and he only wishes he could afford a bullet and shoot a couple and make a stew, but there isn’t the money.

“Thomas, Darcy is not in the helmet! Look somewhere ELSE!!” says Thirsty sharply and loudly as he moves Thomas to the left using his leg.

“Thirsty, let go of my helmet I found it! Let go and I won’t be mad honest. Just give me my helmet please?” asks Thomas quietly and warmly as he tugs on the helmet and has a sly smile on his face. He knows he needs the helmet and the money that old man Klarf will pay him for it.

Thirsty looks at Thomas with angry eyes and clears his throat. He needs the helmet to buy everyone a goose and he isn’t letting go either. Thomas thinks this is really funny and he giggles and pushes on Thirsty with his head. Richard sits and listens to this and smiles to himself as he wonders “What is this helmet they are fighting over?” He assumes it is the neighbor’s helmet and there will be no money made from it, as it has to be returned.

“Look, Thomas, the crows are getting in!!” yells Thirsty as he points to the windows. Thirsty knows Thomas is scared of crows more than anything.

Thomas looks over at the window and Thirsty snatches the helmet from his hands. Thirsty walks with a smile on his face and the helmet high above his head where Thomas can’t reach it. Thomas tries to reach up and get it, but it is no use. He can only shake his head and shrug his shoulders. Then he runs off and looks for Darcy to get the piece of delicious chocolate.

Richard hears the deception and he completely approves, as he lays there eyeing one crow as it tries to work its way in through a broken part of window. He knows if it just puts its whole head in he can smash it with his wooden hammer. He reaches down beneath his bed and pulls out the hammer and then waits patiently for the crow.

Thirsty meanwhile looks around and then he remembers the root cellar. He goes into the spare bedroom and pulls back the rug to take a look and then Thirsty says hopefully, “Please be home, Darcy, please.” He pulls up on the handle of the round door with the words, “Magic’s gift to us all.” He looks down in and he sees no sign of her in the blackness. He decides to go down 2 steps and look and once he does Thirsty sees it is empty on every shelf and in every corner and it breaks his heart.

“Boo, boo I says!” says Thomas jokingly.

“Boo ba boo says me,” kids Thirsty.

“She’s not in there, Thirsty, I think she went to town last night,” whispers Thomas quietly as he pokes his head into the doorway. This startles Thirsty as his eyes shoot back at Thomas making him giggle. Thomas runs off screaming and Thirsty runs after him.

“You’re gonna get it, Thomas, I’ll make you cry!” yells Thirsty angrily as he hates people when they scare him. That is his number one pet peeve and he is always prepared to give them a good hard slap if they do it to him.

Thomas runs all the way to Richard’s room and hides behind his father under the blankets. Richard laughs at this and pulls the blanket back and looks underneath at Thomas as Thomas whispers, “I really got him this time, Dadums, he was sooo scared. I think he’s gonna kill me this time, but I can’t care it was toooo funny,” whispers Thomas happily as he looks at his dad and then kisses him on the lips and chin. They both laugh at how angry Thirsty gets when you startle him. Richard has done just that a few times for the incredible fun of it. In comes Thirsty with a scowl on his face and Richard looks up at him.

“Yes, Thirsty, what is it?” asks Richard coyly as he raises one eyebrow and purses his lips at Thirsty. It is all he can do not to burst out laughing.

Thirsty’s scowl races off his face as he fears Richard more than anyone, but he knows Thomas is hiding under the blankets and laughing at him right then as he hears his giggles.

Thomas wants to poke his head out, but he decides to wait ‘til Darcy is found as he is tired.

“Dadums, is...is, no I don’t want to ask. I couldn’t find Darcy, but I did find this helmet. Do you think it’s worth a trip to the pawn shed? It might warrant a goose, Dadums, hmm,” says Thirsty as he walks over and sits the down beside Richard as he hands him the helmet. Thirsty knows Thomas is

giggling a bit too loud to not get another slap of the hip, but he isn't going to do much more than that to him.

Richard takes the helmet from Thirsty with a smile on his face and then Richard's face goes white. He sees the imprint of the man being devoured by a bird and he knows that is Ragiton's mark (the king of the evil and ruthless wizard murderers). Richard knows since that mark is there they are all in danger. Richard remembers the time he had fought it out spell for spell with Ragiton when they were young and Richard was but 10 years old. He remembers Ragiton getting the right side of his face burned black by a good spell by Richard. Then Ragiton ran off and shouted, "I will steal what matters to you, Richard, and then we'll be even!!" Now he knows just what that means and it is his beloved only daughter Darcy that is taken.

Thirsty can feel his Dad getting scared and he looks over at him wide eyed.

"Oh God no...no not this," says Richard in disbelief as his hands tremble and his eyes look down and then dead at Thirsty. He knows Thirsty could be the next one taken and he feels terrified.

"What, Dadums, what's gone wrong?" asks Thirsty anxiously as he looks intently at Richard. Thirsty grabs both of his trembling hands. Thomas hears this and pokes his head out from under the blankets and looks quizzically at Thirsty and Richard. Thomas knows someone has stolen Richard's prized pig again and he will soon be furious. Richard looks at Thirsty and then at Thomas and it all crystallizes in his mind.

"Boys, My little men of Maine, Darcy has been taken! Now as shocking as this may be, they will soon come for you, Thirsty, and you, Thomas. And that I cannot have!" explained Richard nervously as his thoughts raced. "Ok Richard, think for just a moment...I'VE GOT IT!! Thirsty, I know how to save Darcy and you and...Thomas here from death. There is a way the Shadowman's bow, the one I told you about at bedtime so many times. It's real, and you must go and get it," said Richard boldly as he grabbed the headboard.

“I remember, the best one ever,” said Thomas as he grinned slightly at Thirsty/

“If you had that you would have a good not great chance of saving your sister Darcy. The bow lies in the Torned forest in New York Pashal, the former New York City, but I want to make this clear...that doesn't matter. Go there; secure the bow by killing the Bow Maker. He or she will put up quite a fight, but they can't deny your will, Thirsty. Remember those spells I taught you, they will save your life,” said Richard as he patted Thirsty on the head and then looked away quickly.

“I know them all by heart and I practiced them,” said Thirsty reassuringly as he slapped fives with Thomas. Thirsty feels good now that he's been practicing those spells so much.

“Now once you find the bow and kill the Bow Maker, head out of Torned forest and back out into the city. The last I knew Ragiton had a large portal leading into his realm on ahhh...oh damn I don't remember. By gum I've failed your sister, and you boys,” said Richard as he slaps the bed sheets.

“It's ok think slower,” says Thomas hopefully as he rubs Richard's neck.

“Wait Wall Street in the center of a large skyscraper! Now see the old man is not dead in my mind boys, no. Now when you go looking for Ragiton, if you see Darcy just free her and flee. I will take you all far away from here when you return and we won't have to worry. If he chases, and he invariably will...fight him to the DEATH!! Kill him in his mind first, remember, the mind must die before his body,” explains Richard sternly as he points to each of them.

“We can do it I know we can!” said Thirsty boldly as he hit the wall with his fist.

“Ok, Thirsty, you will need to take Mr.Pop with you and it will rain there a red rain. So you'll have to Dundy no matter how much you hate it!” instructs Richard as he tries not to cry. “DON'T say a word, there's no point arguing now. Ok, Thirsty, I know you have your lucky nickel I know because I gave it to you. But I have this for special occasions...see it's an actual quarter. That kind of money will save you from dying of STAR-vation. Here, take it and hide it in your pocket quickly, Son, Darcy needs us”.

“Thirsty will save, saves her I knows it!” says Thomas he waves his right arm like a wand in the air.

“Now when you go through the other farmers lands’, I will allow you to steal enough food to get by each day, no more. They are our friends we don’t steal from our friends, unless we’re dying. Now, Son, if I don’t see this beautiful face of yours again, I’ll Let you know now I have seen it, and I did love you every day of your life,” said Richard as he put his hands on Thirsty’s shoulders and then hugged him.

“I know, I know deep inside. And I will bring Darcy back I promise,” says Thirsty as he hits his fist into his other hand.

“Even when you spoiled my cake I have forgiven and I still love. Even though I miss the cake often but that’s not here nor there. Thomas, please look at me..., Thomas, I don’t know what to do with you. If I let you go you could die. If you stay here you’ll surely die! You’re staying and that’s final! Go lay down in your bed and don’t miss your brother, NOW!” thunders Richard causing Thomas to smile.

“That’s kinda sucky,” says Thomas sadly as he kicks the bed with his heel.

“Thirsty, I can’t walk you out but I bid you farewell, My Son. Remember kill his mind first. That will serve you well, Thirsty, well indeed,” says Richard sternly as he clutches a now teary eyed Thirsty and tries to be strong, but that is not to be. Richard starts to cry uncontrollably. He knows the family he holds dear will never be the same again.

Thirsty holds him tightly and doesn’t want to ever let go. He grabs the sides of Richard’s face and Thomas climbs down off of Richard.

Thomas debates running away or giving him a hug, as he goes out of the room and then ducks back in twice. He runs over and kisses Richard on the cheek and rubs the side of his face. Richard nods at this and Thomas runs out of the room and into his bedroom.

“Dadums, there won’t be a moment, not a second I breathe again. That I won’t think of you, Thomas, and Darcy, I love you, Dadums. This Ragiton I won’t let him ruin us I WON’T! Darcy will smile and hug us all once more, Dadums!” declared Thirsty triumphantly as he pulled out his wand. “Ahhh I’ve got to go get my sister and I’ve got to go now, Father. I’ll save all of this quarter I can I promise! Bye, Dadums, I love you!” says Thirsty tearfully as he kisses Richard on the cheek and grimaces as he looks him in the eye.

Richard sees the determination on his face and knows this is a boy to be spoken off to everyone. He also knows Thirsty will do his best to bring home Darcy. Thirsty looks into his father’s loving eyes and sees the look of love and hope in there. He turns and sees Thomas down the hallway and he waves goodbye to Thomas one final time.

“Bye, Son, I will think of you often. NOW RUN, RUN FOR US ALL!!” thunders Richard boldly as he claps his large hands together 3 times fast. Then he breaks out laughing and eases back in his bed. He knows his children are a blessing and that Thirsty will save the family *if it can be saved*.

Thirsty races out through the kitchen’s triangular door and then down the red carpet covered rickety steps. His eyes scan the black fields and the barren trees for Pop, but for the life of him he doesn’t see him anywhere. The clouds are thick and lightning strikes can be seen hitting the next farm over’s barn and lighting it on fire. Suddenly the rain pours down on Thirsty and he curses it under his breath. He runs out into the u shaped fields in search of Pop with their barn looming large behind him with the words, “I know a thing, but I am not a thing forever,” emblazoned on the barn in faded and burnt out green with gold trim letters. The face of Richard sits in the shadows of the words. Thirsty sees this as the worst of omens and he feels sick having to deal with such a fierce storm when he could be inside with Thomas and his Dadums.

“POP, Come to your master NOW!!” shouts Thirsty loudly as he runs out around the barn and has to catch his breath from the anxiety he is feeling. There is still no sign of Pop anywhere. Thirsty knows Pop often times will hide in hard to reach places, but he is hoping this time he is nearer to home.

The rain is coming down in buckets and a burst of lightning crashes not even 30 feet from Thirsty. It startles him and he ducks into the barn to catch a break from the rain. Once he is inside he sees Pop’s head poking out of the ground. Mr. Pop has buried himself as he sleeps and only pops his head up to see if the lightning is close to him. When Thirsty sees Pop he feels total exhilaration and he knows he has caught a fortuitous break. He runs over to Mr. Pop and pulls on his smiling tongue wagging head to come out of the ground.

Pop has a round head with round bright yellow eyes and a pair of brown ears. His neck is long and almost made to look like a rope. His body is short and round with grooves on the sides for feet to go in and fly him with. His skin is orange with yellow streaks of what looks like lightning bolts. He is 10 feet long and has a dark red squiggly tale like a pig, as well as a square bump on his back to tie ropes to.

Pop comes slowly out of the ground and grunts as he does. Pop really wants to sleep another 10 hours and then eat, but he is happy to see Thirsty and he licks his face. Thirsty gets on the back of Pop once he is out of the barn and spins him around to leave and Thirsty says boldly,” Pop, we’ve got New York Pashal in our future I hope you don’t mind!”

“Hey, Thirsty, I can’t let you ditch me like this. Trip takes brothers not one brother without me. I am attaching my sled to the back of Pop and I don’t want to hear any guff when I do. Just keep your mouth good and closed!” says Thomas sternly as he attaches his rubber, with black leather back rest, floating chair to the bump on Pop’s back. He calmly walks over to Thirsty and hugs him. Then he calmly walks back over and sits down in his chair, all the while Thirsty looks at him like what gives.

“Thomas, if Dad knew you were coming he’d cook me in oil! Take off and go back to your bed! I’ll be back in a couple of days honest. No, stop grinning and GO!” says Thirsty firmly and half heartedly as he secretly does want some company and Thomas is the logical choice.

Pop floats up into the air and starts slowly riding back towards the storm. Pop loves him some Thomas and he wants him to go with them. Thomas just shrugs his shoulders and giggles loudly, as he isn’t being left behind when it comes to a new trip. Then there is a double lightning strike just outside the barn and it startles Thirsty, but Thomas just acts like he is scared to kid with Thirsty. Thirsty laughs at this and waves at the sky.

“How you leave the Thomas boy behind you need me. I won’t sit back home and worry, and worry some more about where is Thirsty. When I can watch where Thirsty is all the time. Why you so not letting me, Thirsty, go and help you huh?” asks Thomas calmly as he grins and does a fun little side to side motion as he winks at Thirsty. Thomas knows Thirsty and Darcy need him and his smart head or they won’t make it.

Thirsty shakes his head and rolls his eyes, as he knows there is no arguing with Thomas.

“Fine you can go, but don’t beg me for the quarter. I plan on bringing back at least 18 cents of that quarter and none less! Now hold on because I want to go fast, Thomas,” says Thirsty sternly as he shakes his head, turns back and looks forward. He sees there are many things being blown around by the wind like a small cart. He knows it will be dangerous flying today, but they have no choice in the matter. Pop laughs and sticks out his tongue as they inch closer to the barn door.

“Thank you, Thirsty, you’re not the weirdo people say,” says Thomas jokingly as he sits back against his chair and giggles loudly. He loves trips and he loves kidding with Thirsty even more. He wonders if New York Pashal will be nice to him and Thirsty, as he knows they love big spenders and they have a whole quarter.

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