

The Caves of Da'Nath

Trilogy Synopsis

An illustrated epic fantasy trilogy

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BOOK ONE SYNOPSIS

Bidi Ardake, a.k.a. NUBBINS, is Pang’s foremost expert on dragons... or so he believes, until R’YA, a tiny indigo dragon and the last of her kind, approaches him with a fantastical tale. Playing on his hunger for knowledge (and fame) and despite insinuations that she could cook and eat him (if challenged in a chef’s cook-off), a friendship is formed. R’ya reveals a hidden cache of paintings and scrolls that tell the true history of URTH and the splitting of her one landmass, PANG, to give all species a better chance to survive.

After a grueling, but seemingly uneventful journey, Nubbins and his companions reach the place where R’ya said the entrance to the caves would be. He did not know about THE WATCHER lurking in the distance, nudging events in the direction she desired; even if he had, he would have dismissed her as a 16-year old girl of no consequence. When FEEBEE, his canine companion, finally figured out the secret to opening the cave and getting in safely, their work began in earnest.

The ancient records had been magically preserved for thousands of years, awaiting those who would bring the secret history to light. Through planning, questing, journeying, and sharing wisdom; and by working in concert with elves, dwarves, fairies, dogs, and (of course) dragons, the women of Urth came together to save the world. The scrolls and paintings in the Caves of Da’Nath tell their legacy, a dangerous history that keeps magic and power in the hands of a select, corrupt few.

But Nubbins didn’t learn all of this straightaway.

R’ya directed Nubbins to the scrolls and paintings that would shed light on how even he, the Chief Thoth Circle Scribe, had been misled with a false history. Believing in the innate goodness of the University however, Nubbins didn’t realize how dangerous Truth could be. His mind reeled as he tried to absorb the stories of Thoth, the wizards, the scribes, the canines, the

dragons, the elves, and the dwarves. He had grown up thinking many of those stories were myths, but upon learning the facts, his desire to share them blinded him to the dangers of doing so.

It never occurred to Nubbins that history had been rewritten on purpose. It never occurred to him that the people he met along the way could not be trusted. Despite R'ya's warnings, it never *really* occurred to him that he could be in danger. Any niggling fears he might have had were overshadowed by his exuberant plans to tell the world what really happened thousands of years ago.

The Watcher knew though. When the hapless old man got himself into trouble again, she knew she had to act. Pulling the veils of mist around his injured dog Feebee and healing her with sacred chants, the watcher knew her only chance to control the information Nubbins had uncovered was to take him into the mists as well. She'd deal with the consequences after she got what she needed from him.

BOOK TWO SYNOPSIS (PROPOSED)

Against the rules, The Watcher, HALIYAH, has saved Nubbins and Feebee from capture. In an uneasy truce, they agree to work together out of necessity. Haliyah transports them all to the University, which sits on a tiny island at the very top of Pang, on high cliffs overlooking the sea. The politics of power and magic play a hidden and sinister role in Nubbins' world, and as he and Haliyah uncover the source of this magic (a luminous vapor found deep inside Urth), their danger grows.

Unfortunately, they recognize how dire their situation is too late and are captured by the Regents of the University, members of a shadowy sect that have known much of the true history

and used it for their own gain. They are desperate to control the secrets within the Caves of Da’Nath because their knowledge is incomplete and their power is fading.

In the secondary timeline (thousands of years ago), the Conclave in the Valley of the Giants occurs. The women of Urth are lead by NYELLE, the young head of the wizards council. As she and the other leaders struggle to determine how to save the most lives when Pang splits, NIALLEV and PONTIFICUS MURT are working to keep magic and power under their control.

As book two ends, the split begins— urthquakes, floods, tsunamis, volcanoes, and terrible storms disrupt life for all. The wizards try to minimize loss of life in the destruction, but none have foreseen the Great Forgetting that would render almost all humans senseless. At the last moment, Niallev and Murt fashion a magical shield that protects them from the darkness and positions them perfectly to rule the new world.

BOOK THREE SYNOPSIS (PROPOSED)

Pang has been rent asunder. Families have been separated, cities have been destroyed, and after three days of terrifying darkness, humanity wakes to a new world without any recollection of the past. Though some memories eventually come back in the guise of fables and stories, it is a time of great confusion and turmoil. Nevertheless, the will to survive is strong, and after floundering for a little while, people begin to rebuild... with no knowledge of magic.

Elves, dwarves, and fairies have withdrawn from the human world, and dragons have grown scarce. Most have left Urth, but R’ya remains, waiting patiently for a time where it will be safe to reveal the true history and the archival Caves of Da’Nath so humanity can once again learn to live in harmony with all the inhabitants of Urth.

Meanwhile in the present, Feebee and R’ya devise a plan to rescue Nubbins and Haliyah from the Regents of the University. Their plan works (partly because the Regents underestimate the dog’s cunning), but Feebee loses her leg in the effort. The companions hasten back to the Caves of Da’Nath to complete the true history and distribute it as widely as possible.

With a clearer understanding of history than any of the mystics in Haliyah’s order, she once again is forced to break the rules when Niallev reappears from the mist. Weakened, but preserved through her mastery of magic and desperation to correct the misdeeds of her past, Niallev has slept on the other side of the veil, waiting. She had been unable to stop the forces she set in motion thousands of years before, but with the help of Nubbins, Haliyah, Feebee, and R’ya, Niallev would be redeemed. With her last breath, she subdues the Regents long enough for the truth to come out.

Widespread publication of “The True History of Urth” brings Nubbins the fame he’s always sought, to his eventual dismay. After overseeing the reorganization of the University, Haliyah is asked to stay on as its new Head Regent, an honor she promptly declines. As the people of Pang began to grasp their new reality, magic slowly begins to reappear in the world. Humans dream of exploring the unknown lands beyond the sea, and elves, dwarves, fairies and dragons once again make their presence known.

R’ya can finally rest. As she transitions into her next great beginning (as they say in dragonlore), her memory continues to warm the heart of all who knew her. She sends out her last breath as a new age of Urth dawns: hopeful, bright, and full of wonder.