

## **MAGIC CRYSTALS**

written by

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The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PANEL 1

BIG PANEL, EXTERIOR. We are in a medieval village, though it has more of a fantasy than a historical vibe to it. We see a bunch of people (humans as well as some fantasy races mixed in) focusing on their daily routine. Shopping, walking their farm animals, going to work, and such. But our main focus is on a man - the FATHER - chopping wood in front of his house.

PANEL 2

More focused on the FATHER, while we also see the front door of his house, from where the ALETHEA dialogue bubble is coming from. Though we can't really see her yet since she's still inside the house.

ALETHEA                      **Father! Father!**

PANEL 3

We now see ALETHEA, a little girl, maybe eight years old, running excitedly to her FATHER. She seems to be holding something in her hand. Something slightly glowing red.

FATHER                      What is it, **Alethea**?

ALETHEA                      Look what I found!

PANEL 4

Focus on the two, with ALETHEA now showing off a red glowing crystal.

FATHER                      Oh, wow.  
Where did you find it?

ALETHEA                      It was in the chest in the attic, along with some other old things.

PANEL 5

The FATHER has put his ax into the log and is now wiping the sweat off of his brow.

FATHER                      And do you know what it is?

ALETHEA                      No. But it looks **pretty**!

FATHER                      Do you want me to tell you?

ALETHEA                      **Yes, please!**

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

The two are now going inside the house, with the FATHER putting his hand on ALETHEA's little head.

FATHER                      Once upon a time... several years before you were born...  
  
                                 ...the King's group of Wisemen have discovered how to create plenty of what you are holding. **The magic crystals.**

ALETHEA                      And what can they do?

PANEL 2

INTERIOR. Both characters are now inside the house. It's a small, modest home. ALETHEA is about to sit on her bed, while her FATHER is heading for a cup of water in the kitchen (or the kitchenette) to quench his thirst after hard work.

FATHER                      The crystals were able to connect to each other at very long distances.  
  
                                 Making it possible for people from all over the Kingdom to talk to one another.

ALETHEA                      **Wow.**

PANEL 3

FLASHBACK, EXTERIOR. We see some people in the village. Most of them holding their crystals to their ears, presumably talking to other people far away.

NARRATION                      Very soon almost everybody in the Kingdom had their own crystal, which made talking to almost anybody you wanted suddenly **unimaginably easy.**

PANEL 4

PRESENT, INTERIOR. The FATHER is drinking from his cup, while ALETHEA is sitting on the bed, eagerly listening to every word while holding the crystal in her hand.

FATHER                      Soon you could not only talk to people using the crystals, but also see them. In fact, we were able to see **plenty of things.**

ALETHEA                      Like what?

PANEL 5

SIMILAR FLASHBACK, EXTERIOR. The people in the village are now looking at their crystals instead of holding them to their ears. Though it's still pretty casual and there are some people without crystals.

NARRATION                      Knowledge from the Wisemen. Healing remedies, cultivation instructions. Helpful guidelines for how to defend ourselves against trolls or raiders.

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

Focus on ALETHEA, looking puzzled (while still holding the crystal in her hand).

ALETHEA                      Then why was yours locked in an old chest?  
Why haven't I ever seen one until now?

PANEL 2

Focus on the FATHER, suddenly looking worried.

FATHER                      It didn't take long before we were doing **everything**  
**using the crystals**. We barely talked to each other  
face to face.  
  
Everyone was comparing themselves to each other. How  
big their land is, how beautiful their family is,  
how rich they are.

PANEL 3

FLASHBACK, EXTERIOR. Similar to the previous flashback panels, only now everybody is looking into the crystals, with the red glow reflecting in their eyes, making it seem like they themselves glow red a little.

NARRATION                      The crystals consumed our lives. They **awoke**  
something in us. Sadness, anger, envy, despair.  
  
Soon the crystals started creating **lies and**  
**illusions** to turn us against each other. But we were  
still enchanted by their power.

PANEL 4

FLASHBACK, INTERIOR. THREE WISEMEN are inside a castle, conjuring one big red crystal, as if they are controlling all the others through it. The Wisemen can look like your typical fantasy wizards, but feel free to make each one distinct. Again, not all of them need to be human.

NARRATION                      Some say the Wisemen realized what power the  
crystals hold over the Kingdom and decided to use  
them for their own gain.  
  
Others say that this was in fact their plan from the  
beginning. That they knew how the crystals will  
affect us.

PANEL 5

PRESENT, INTERIOR. Focus on ALETHEA, now looking not at her father, but at the crystal.

ALETHEA                      So what happened then?

PAGE TURN

**PAGE 4 - PANELS: 8**

**PANEL 1**

SMALL PANEL, focus on the FATHER.

**PANEL 2**

SIMILAR PANEL.

FATHER

**Nothing.**

We knew we couldn't fight against the Wisemen.  
Against the Kingdom or the King.

But there was one thing we could do.

**PANEL 3**

FLASHBACK, EXTERIOR. A MALE VILLAGE PEASANT is digging a hole with a shovel, with his crystal lying next to the hole.

NARRATION

We could decide to **stop using the crystals.**

**PANEL 4**

FLASHBACK, INTERIOR. A FEMALE VILLAGE PEASANT is kneeling on the floor of her house, with a few of the wooden floorboards pulled out. Her crystal is lying beside her, waiting to be put in the space under the floorboards.

NARRATION

We could choose not to be influenced by them any longer.

**PANEL 5**

FLASHBACK, INTERIOR. The FATHER is looking into an empty wooden chest in the attic. His crystal is lying on the ground next to him.

NARRATION

We could choose to be free again and live our lives as we once did.

**PANEL 6**

FLASHBACK, SMALL PANEL, EXTERIOR. The MALE VILLAGE PEASANT is covering the hole he's dug up, with his crystal now in it.

**PANEL 7**

FLASHBACK, SMALL PANEL, INTERIOR. The FEMALE VILLAGE PEASANT is putting the loose floorboards in their place again, with her crystal now beneath the floor.

**PANEL 8**

FLASHBACK, SMALL PANEL, INTERIOR. The FATHER is looking at the wooden chest, now with the crystal inside. His hand ready to close it.

PAGE 5 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

PRESENT, INTERIOR. We see the FATHER, now sitting on the bed with ALETHEA.

FATHER                      There are still some crystals around. They are very useful for connecting the Kingdom when it is necessary.

But we learned not to let ourselves be consumed by their corruptive power.

PANEL 2

ALETHEA is now jumping off the bed, leaving the crystal on it. It seems like it no longer interests her.

ALETHEA                      That was **a nice story**.

I'm glad that that everybody overcame the power of the evil crystals!

PANEL 3

Reverse shot, ALETHEA is now heading for the door outside.

ALETHEA                      I'm going to go play by the lake with Lyla and Riona. I must be late already.

Will you please return the crystal into the chest, father?

PANEL 4

Again a reverse shot back at the FATHER, sitting on the bed with his crystal laying next to him.

FATHER                      Of course.

PANEL 5

The focus is now on the crystals itself. If this was a movie shot, the camera would be sitting right next to the crystal, making it look big. The FATHER is looking down on it (and in a sense on "us"). With the crystal still producing red light, his eyes are now slightly glowing red.

FATHER                      **In a moment.**

THE END