



# NOVAKID MAGIC ACADEMY

## CHAPTER ONE

*...in which we learn a bit about dragons, people, and the emergence of the Academy*

Luna and Astro entered a spacious study. Peeking in through a large window, the morning sun was filling the room with light. Shelves along the walls were packed with books mixed with all kinds of things: vials of potions, astrolabes, tubes and ancient maps side by side with small figurines of people, animals, trees, and mountains. Luna and Astro found themselves across a desk with some ancient books, papers, a globe, and an hourglass.

Both visitors were ill at ease: they fidgeted in the armchair without knowing how to arrange their tails properly. Astro sniffed at multiple smells in the surrounding air while Luna wiggled her whiskers pensively. It was their first time in the Headmaster's office.

A massive door right in front of the window opened, and a dragon came in.

This was Novus Wisword, the Headmaster of the Novakid Magic Academy. Yellow scales on his tail, wings and legs were shining like gold in the sunlight. The rest of his body was covered with a long cape, the color of which was that of an unripe avocado. Novus's dark green eyes were observing the world through glasses, and he always had a pencil tucked behind his ear to make notes in books.





“Welcome, my friends!”

“How do you do, Your Wisesty Novus Wisword!” Luna and Astro responded in unison.

“My friends, you have been students of the Novakid Magic Academy for several years now. You are known as the best students of your houses. So today, I have invited you with an offer of becoming my assistants. You are just everything I need: young, brave, and smart. Are you ready to serve the Academy?”

Astro and Luna exchanged glances, nodded to each other, and answered:

“Sure!”

“That’s very fine, my friends. We have a lot to accomplish. But first of all, you need to hear the story of the world.”

*Once upon a time, the earth was governed by dragons. They were wise and strong. With their sciences and arts, they created truly outstanding things. All other animals respected the dragons and treated them as kings of the world.*

As soon as Novus Wisword started his tale, objects on the shelves became restless. A tube case hovered in the air in the middle of the room and opened. An old map popped out from it to unfold on the floor. Next, some invisible hand placed the figurines of trees, dragons, and animals from the shelves onto the map. They came alive and started acting out the story the Headmaster was telling.

*One day, people appeared on the earth. No one knows for sure where they had come from. People were poorly adjusted to life in the world: they had neither sharp claws, nor wings, nor teeth. Also, they didn’t know the magic language spoken by everyone else, of course. Dragons took pity on people and gave them knowledge. With that knowledge people became much stronger than before.*

*Human rulers turned arrogant. They wanted to be masters of the world. That’s how people declared war against dragons. Hundreds of knights went on crusades to fight dragons. Dragons and their allies had to protect themselves. Both sides suffered terrible losses in the Great War.*

Figurines of foot soldiers and horsemen lined up on the map and marched in the direction of the dragon standing closest to them. The dragon spat fire. Knights shot hundreds of arrows at him.

*At that time, the Magic Tree grew in the center of the world. Its canopy accommodated a library—the source of dragon wisdom. The eldest dragons gathered in that library to discuss how they could stop the war. They found a special spell in one of the books that could make half of the world invisible. Dragons and some other creatures who were attacked by people hid in the veiled part of our world, and since then, people and dragons have been sharing the same world while living in different halves. As if they lived in one room divided by a mirror wall. Dragons can see the human half of the world, while people cannot see the one of dragons. The exception, of course, is those who know the magic language.*







To maintain the balance in the world, the Novakid Magic Academy was founded on top of the Magic Tree. Here, people and animals can learn the magic language that gives them power to control nature and make magic.

“However, my friends, there’s a prophecy in ancient books of the Novakid Academy’s library. It says...”

Novus Wisword didn’t finish the sentence. A tree branch knocked against the window (boom). Another time (boom-boom). And another (boom-boom-boom).

“Come in, Dorothea!”

Novus Wisword barely finished saying the words when the window threw open and a gust of wind burst into the room. Books, figurines, even Luna’s and Astro’s hair – everything was set in motion, as if a small tornado had swept in. Then the window closed as abruptly as it had opened. In the same instant, an owl appeared on the table. Her large eyes were inspecting Novus’s visitors inquiringly. Without averting her gaze off Astro and Luna, the owl uttered:

“Hoot! Hoot!”



Novus only shook his head in response.

“Dear friends, allow me to introduce to you Dorothea Nightwing—the Chief Postmaster of the Novakid Magic Academy. Luna and Astro are my new assistants.”

“Hoot! Nice to meet you, dears!” The owl said and slightly bowed to the Headmaster’s guests.

“Nice to meet you, too!” Astro and Luna replied. To be honest, they had already met the Chief Postmaster of the Novakid Academy. However, Dorothea Nightwing never paid any attention to students. Students, in their turn, disliked Dorothea and considered her haughty.

When introductions were finished, Novus turned to the Postmaster.

“So, what urgent news made you honor us with your presence so unexpectedly? Have unicorns grazed some banewort, so now the whole flock is asleep between the roots of the Magic Tree? Or have the dragons’ cousins, basilisks, gone on a rampage after drinking swamp water in Froglet Joe’ Tavern?”

“No, Your Wisesty,” Dorothea answered in dismay. “Hoot! It’s so, so much worse! Hoot! Twenty minutes ago, a gremlin was seen in the Academy!”

The sudden news made the Headmaster reel back so much that a pencil he kept behind his ear slipped and fell on the floor. Novus Wisword started walking back and forth alongside his table. The three visitors watched each of his steps carefully.

“But how?! How did they do it? After banishing the last gremlin from the Academy, we wrapped the Tree with solid magic protection. Gremlins couldn’t pass through on their own! It is impossible! Only if...” Novus, who was thinking out loud, stopped. After some silent consideration, he turned to Astro and Luna.

“My friends, I have the first assignment for you!”

*To be continued*

