

WORD SEARCH

A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain range at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a soft, hazy orange and yellow. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted evergreen trees. A small lake in the middle ground reflects the light from the sun, which is visible on the right side of the image. The mountains in the background are rugged and partially shrouded in mist.

SARA SEARSON - ECW2841-0 - FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY - 10-24-2021 - NICOLE OQUENDO - MADE WITH PHOTOSHOP

After the Cruel Bomb was dropped, people began forgetting things. Years later, the only record people have of the past is whatever books and letters they can find. But everyone is starting to run out of words, including The Market. Librarian Sophie is on the hunt for a big score to bump her words. But when running out of words is a death sentence, how far will Sophie go to protect herself, and what respect do we owe to the people who came before us?

The Last War

In the year 2047, a war broke out. In its time, it was labeled World War III, merely a continuation of a century-old struggle. While no countries released nuclear bombs, the devastation was massive. Ten years after the start of the war, the enemy powers launched their largest attack yet against America. A series of missile strikes on 100 key areas destroyed much of the infrastructure and sent the country into chaos. Other countries on both sides quickly suffered from the same fate, until all countries were destabilized to the point that more war was infeasible.

The Great Forgetting

At first, it was hailed as trauma. Those who has survived the strikes began claiming they had no memories of the events. Then, they claimed they had no memories at all. But as the days went by, people further and further began to claim the same: they had no memories.

It took ten years before it claimed its final victim, and none left alive had any true memories from before The War. So much had been lost, that the world was irrevocably changed. Countries fell apart, technologies and arts were forgotten, and the world was forced to rebuild nearly from scratch.

Founding of the Market

The Market was founded in the Northeastern corner of what was once America and included some land from southern Canada. Founded by early Forgetters, they built ruins into a small city, and began trying to regain some of the technology of the past. Founding itself on principles of remembering the past made it an attractive option to many, who felt robbed of their histories, and it was quickly populated by locals.

Due to its founding principles, when the new governing body found itself in need of a currency, they selected what they were already using to barter: books. As books became cumbersome and difficult to quantify, currency became more measured, until people were funded on words.

The Market introduced Counters only sixty years ago. Counters are now the only way to do any sort of transactions with the Market, and are therefore requisite for all Market residents.

4) Main Character(s)

Provide a character biography and description for the protagonist. This would be a good time to review that Character Planning Sheet!

Include image if one is available/applicable – see the notes at the bottom of the outline. An image increases engagement, interest, and encourages visualization of your story elements.

350 words minimum

Name: Sophie Miller

Aliases: "The Wiz"

Market Standard: 8

Occupation: Librarian (Freelance)

AVG Word Count: 800 – 15,000

DOB: 2223-02-04

Relatives:

Father: Daniel Miller (Worker, 4) Alive

Mother: Elizabeth Miller (*unfit*, 6) Alive

Brother: Noah Miller (**REDACTED**, 10) **REDACTED**

Sister: Ava Miller (Spouse, 5) Alive

Residence: Market Stall 19, Lot 36

NOTES

REJECTED MARKET WORK OFFER

Work offer: Peacekeeper y:2241

Occupations:

Worker y:2241

Translator, French (Freelance)y:2242

Librarian (Freelance) y:2244

Attempted to resist detaining of Sam Miller
when he was detained for Running Out

Attempted to contact Sam Miller after he
was detained in work camp

Sold high value book y:2242

Crimes:

Illegal word transfer (-500) y:2245

Threat Level: HIGH

Sophie Miller wants to matter. When all is said and done, that's all she's ever really wanted. She wants to do something that matters some day, and be respected and important. She likes to fix things, like the rusty old bike she scavenged from a raid when she first became a Librarian, or the broken down old house her parents own. While she is the happy owner of a very nice at the center of town, she prefers the solitude of her childhood home and lives there, while her parents live in Sophie's house. She visits with her parents every week unless she or her father are otherwise occupied, usually accompanied by her younger sister. However, she is most often busy scavenging the wreckages of old buildings in The Wilds, searching for books leftover from the old times.

She wouldn't call her past troubled, but that's only because she refuses to speak about it. Sometimes, she thinks everything went wrong when her Aunt Aubrey was arrested. Before that, Sophie could keep her opinions to herself. She was the only one that quietly thought that the Market was wrong, and therefore she had no basis. No reason to mistrust what everyone else trusted. When Aubrey was arrested for stealing from the Market, with accusations that she was staging a rebellion, Sophie couldn't help but feel quietly vindicated. Then, when her grandfather was arrested for Running Out of words, she knew that The Market wasn't right. She had no choice but to participate in its structure, but when she was offered a job with the Market, she immediately turned it down. However, it was hard for her to find work due to her high Market Value. Dangerously low, into the single digits. With merely four words left, she did something terrible, and arranged a pickpocketing of a Market official, to steal one of their books and trade for a far more valuable book. After making the deal and earning her words, she made the discovery that the person she had stolen from was her own brother, who faced an inquiry at work and was docked several thousand words. Despite their problems, she felt awful and vowed to find sustainable work that harmed no one. Thus, she learned French and was a translator for awhile, before Mark introduced her to being a Librarian, and she never looked back.

Name: Mark Vischer

Aliases: Fish

Market Standard: 3

DOB: 2221-03-12

Occupation: Librarian (Freelance)

AVG Word Count: 20 – 15,000

Family Members:

Father: Ezra Vischer (~~Hunter, 7~~) Deceased

Mother: Helena Vischer (*unfit*, 2) Alive

Sister: Penelope Vischer (~~student~~) Deceased

Residence: Market Stall 19, Lot 472

NOTES

Occupations:

Worker y:2239

Librarian (Freelance) y:2240

Threat Level: MID

Name: Ava Peters (Formerly Miller)

Aliases: Pinny

Market Standard: 5

DOB: 2226-06-27

Occupation: Spouse

AVG Word Count: 200-1,500

Family Members:

Father: Daniel Miller (Worker, 4) Alive

Mother: Elizabeth Miller (*unfit*, 6) Alive

Brother: Noah Miller (**REDACTED**, 10) **REDACTED**

Sister: Sophie Miller (Librarian, 8) Alive

Spouse: John Peters (Farmer, 5)

Residence: Market Stall 19, Lot 114

NOTES

Occupation:

Worker y:2244

Spouse y: 2245

THREAT LEVEL: LOW

Name: Noah Miller

Aliases: N/A

Market Standard: 10

DOB: 2220-01-05

Occupation: **REDACTED**

AVG Word Count: **REDACTED**

Family Members:

Father: Daniel Miller (Worker, 4) Alive

Mother: Elizabeth Miller (*unfit*, 6) Alive

Sister: Sophie Miller (Librarian, 8) Alive

Sister: Ava Miller (Spouse, 5) Alive

Residence: **REDACTED**

NOTES

Accepted Market Work Offer

Offer: REDACTED y:2238

Occupations:

REDACTED y:2238

REDACTED y:2240

REDACTED y:2247

STRIKES: I

THREAT LEVEL: REDACTED

Name: Daniel Miller

Aliases: Danny, Dan

Market Standard: 4

DOB: 2195-04-15

Occupation: Worker

AVG Word Count: 200-2,000

Family Members:

Father: Samuel Miller (~~Translator, 8~~) Indentured

Mother: Diana Miller (~~Vendor, 6~~) Deceased

Spouse: Elizabeth Miller (*unfit*, 6) Alive

Son: Noah Miller (**REDACTED**, 10) **REDACTED**

Daughter: Sophie Miller (Librarian, 8) Alive

Daughter: Ava Miller (Spouse, 5) Alive

Residence: Market Stall 19, Lot 347

NOTES

Occupations:

Worker 2213

THREAT LEVEL: LOW

Name: Elizabeth Miller (Formerly Adams)

Aliases: Liz

Market Standard: 6

DOB: 2199-07-28

Occupation: *unfit*

AVG Word Count: 50-1,000

Family Members:

Father: Terry Adams (~~Fisher~~, 3) Deceased

Mother: Susan Adams

Sister: Aubrey Adams (**REDACTED**, 9) Incarcerated

Spouse: Daniel Miller (Worker, 4)

Son: Noah Miller (**REDACTED**, 10) **REDACTED**

Daughter: Sophie Miller (Librarian, 8) Alive

Daughter: Ava Miller (Spouse, 5) Alive

Residence: Market Stall 19, Lot 347

NOTES

Occupations:

Worker y:2217

Spouse y:2220

unfit y: 2238

THREAT LEVEL: MID

Market Center

Market Center is the capital (and only) city of The Market. Very few have ever actually set foot inside the Market Center, as it is mostly reserved for Market Employees. It is the southern most point of The Market, and surrounded on all sides by electric walls. Entrance to the Market Center is forbidden, unless by invitation. Most advanced technology is kept within the Market Center, and away from the general public.

Compared to the Market Stalls, the Market Center looks as if it is from an entirely different world, with tall and shining buildings and paved paths.

Market Stall 19

Market Stall 19 was founded in 2184, after several other Market Stalls overpopulated. It was allotted 500 Lots, 4 of which are designated farmland. There are 6 daily vendors, with 2 specialty vendors that appear seasonally. The current population of Market Stall 19 is 1,243.

Market Stall 19 is the northernmost Market Stall, and the second most recent.

Stall 19, like all other Stalls, is created with the Market Stall Building at its center. In front of the Market Stall Building is an indoor/outdoor area, which is where all the vendors set up their booths for the day. Entrance into the Market Stall Building is forbidden without invitation. Children age 6-18 are invited every Friday, and everyone is brought in on their 18th birthday to have their Counter installed. Otherwise, most people never enter the Market Stall Building.

The Wilds

The Wilds are the places between Market Stalls within the boundaries of the Market. The Wilds tend to be dangerous and over run, consisting mostly of forest and mountain sides. However, the towns of old are also found within the Wilds. Scavengers, Librarians, and Hunters are the most likely to wander into the Wilds, as most normal people have no need of them. The wives of Farmers, who are usually holistic healers, will sometimes go through the edges of The Wilds, looking for plants with medicinal properties.

Traveling through The Wilds is difficult without the use of a Pod. Pods are owned and available for rent from the Market, or for use by Market Workers.

It is not common to come across someone in The Wilds, but if ever someone was to encounter a stranger from outside of their own Market Stall Area, it would be in the Wilds.

Education

Families with children between the ages of 6 and 18 are allotted an additional 500 words daily per child. These words are to be used to homeschool those children. Families are also allotted educational books (written by the Market and half valued) to assist in instruction. Every Friday, children are brought to their Stall Center, where the Vendors are established, and brought inside the Market Stall Building for testing.

The Counters

The Counters are subdermal implants that all Market residents receive on their eighteenth birthday. After years of weekly testing, each young resident is given a Market Value, which determines the amount their Counter is preloaded with. People given higher Market Values are seen as greater assets, and to work directly for the Market usually requires a minimum Value, depending on the position. Counters track words not only as currency, but also as the words you say or write. If ever someone runs out of words, the Market receives a ping, and the person is brought to a camp to work off their debt and earn enough words to be released.

After being taken to a camp, they are never seen again.

Sophie and Mark are working towards a job. Both spend huge amounts of words, trying to find where the abandoned house might be. They find the house, and a locker with a huge amount of books. Mark refuses to sell any of the diaries, as he thinks they're personal, and he and Sophie argue about it. Mark is in the double digits for words, but refuses the whole haul and abandons Sophie in the house. She returns to town, tries to sell the books, before deciding to hold off on selling the diaries for a little. Talks it over with various trusted opinions, before reading one and deciding that even the dead are entitled to their privacy. Decides to keep the books safe, before finding out from Noah that Mark had Run Out and was missing.

Sophie sets out to find and help Mark. She finds him, and learns he intends to head North, believing there are other settlements outside of The Market. The two go North before they find a town, and learn that The Market is known as being a dangerous and greedy settlement, and that most people outside of it live better than those in The Market. The two decide to go back to The Market and break out anyone who would leave and bring them to freedom.

They begin at Stall 19, and work slowly through the Stalls, until they arrive at Stall 1. They are legends at this point, and pressured into storming the Market Center, and liberating the camps.

Akulich, S. (2017, November 23). *Smoky morning in Cascades* [Photograph]. <https://unsplash.com/photos/-heLWtuAN3c>