

Noshi Sutherland

Squee! You defended that hydroelectric dam from fallen mages who were trying to subvert the waters to power their own perverted rituals! You saved the world yet again!

Or so you used to think. It was just the plot of one of your favorite books in the Shadowverse series. You used to imagine that you were Shion Northlander, the main character of the series, who visited a world called Shady Springs, where Shadow Magic was real. However, shadow mages had to abide by the rules, or the Association of Insubstantial Tomes would hunt you down. There, you (er, Shion) got apprenticed by a mage named Mark Harley, and had a series of adventures hunting down rogue mages who didn't abide by those rules.

How embarrassing! It took years for you to realize that your "adventures" were just the recycled plots of Shadowverse books, perhaps with a few names changed here and there. Gah! You're 16 now, and you know better. You live in a small town called Sleepy Valley. Magic isn't real. Books are just stories. And the "magical artifact" you have as proof that it was real is just a piece of broken glass. You keep it with you to remind yourself of what is real and what isn't.

You just want to live your past down and get a job from someone who respects you as an adult. Or close enough anyway.

You used to be friends with Rudra Brehm. Their family wasn't liked very much in your town, and your family kept telling you not to play with them. That just made you want to hang out over there even more. But then they went off to join the Peace Corps. But you got postcards! From all over the world! You wish you could travel like that.

But you were alone again. And then your mom passed away. And your dad got sick. Now you have to take care of your ailing dad all by yourself, as well as working a part-time job to earn extra cash. The author King gives you odd jobs and even helps out financially every once in a while, and that helps. But you don't really have time for kid things anymore.

You really hope someone finds a cure for your dad. Without him, you'll be all alone in a cold, uncaring world devoid of magic.

People You Know

- Hema P King: local author who wrote the *Shadowverse* series under the name HP King. Gah. You used to like the series so much. Too much. You'd even go by the author's house and talk about the plots for hours. So embarrassing!
- Rudra Brehm: your friend who went off to join the Peace Corps. Their family is not liked much around town, but you've never understood why.

Fading Lights - Character Sheet

- Meher Madoff: head of the local hunting lodge, which owns most of the surrounding woods.
- Kanak Dorking: another local hunter.
- Shion Northlander: main character from the Shadowverse books.
- Mark Harley: fictional character from the Shadowverse books.
- Quinn Anthony: You know them! But you don't! You're confused. You should ask them if they recognize you.

Goals

- Figure out what's going on. What's real? What happened? Are you dreaming?
- Find a cure for your dad. Your life would be much lonelier without him.
- Find someone who can be friends with who will treat you like an adult.
- Decide what you want to do with your life.

Items and Sheets

- A shard of glass that might have once been part of a mirror. You used to think of this as proof that your stories were real. Now, you keep it to remind you that sometimes it's just a piece of glass.
- Some Runes
- "Sleepy Valley" Bluesheet

Sleepy Valley

Sleepy Valley is a calm, ordinary town, nestled among forested hills in a remote part of the country. It's a nice peaceful place to live away from the noise and stress of the big city.

It doesn't have much that makes it stand out from other towns, so it doesn't have much of a tourist presence, but it does draw some hunters and hikers in the warmer months who appreciate the untouched old-growth forest. The rest of the townsfolk live here year-round, working at shops and restaurants, farming, and making handicrafts.

The one distinction Sleepy Valley has, perhaps, is that over a hundred years ago, strange invaders came out of the forests and took over the town, using it as a base to expand into other areas before eventually being driven out. Some strange tales of the invasion have been passed down from people's grandparents and great grandparents, but no one alive today remembers it, and the details have passed into legend. There's a war memorial in the town square, but no one pays it much attention.

It's not that Sleepy Valley has been completely left behind by time. The highway makes it easier to visit the city than it was in the past, and supplies the market with fresh fruit and vegetables even in the winter. Snow plows and heating oil certainly make the winters easier than they were for previous generations.

All in all, it's an idyllic town, one that provides a nice, safe environment for children to grow up in. It may not look impressive, but to residents, it's home.

Familiar Faces

- Noshi Sutherland: local high schooler who grew up here.
- Rudra Brehm: only child of a local family, grew up here before going off to join the Peace Corps.
- Kanak Dorking: well-dressed local who's away on business a lot but frequents the bars when in-town.
- Meher Madoff: wealthy stockbroker who summers in a nearby hunting lodge.
- Hema P. King: well-known fantasy author who calls the town home.