

Who Pays for Magic?

A scene revision worksheet / 1. Follow the exchange

Choose one scene where you want a magical cost or limit to matter. You don't need to rebuild the whole system. Follow this use of power far enough to see what it changes.

Project / scene:

1. What does the magic accomplish, and who benefits?

Name the result and the people it helps.

2. What is spent, lost, risked, owed, or committed?

If this is a limit, name what cannot be done instead. A limit is not automatically a payment.

3. Who bears the consequence?

The user, the person helped, and the person paying may be different people.

4. Who decides, and who can refuse?

Separate control of the magic from consent to its price.

5. What can return, and what does recovery require?

What stays unavailable until then? Write none or unknown if that is the honest answer.

6. What changes because this magic was used?

Name the action, request, relationship, or later consequence. Another need may expose it, but is not required.

Put it into the scene

A scene revision worksheet / 2. Change the passage

Use the exchange you described on page one. Keep the magical rules consistent. Change the passage only as much as the scene needs.

Original passage

Copy a short passage, or name its location in your manuscript.

Revised passage

Let the consequence affect what someone asks, accepts, refuses, or does.

What changed?

Compare the original passage with your revision. What action, refusal, relationship, or later consequence changed? If the revision only explains the rule, decide where its consequence will matter.

A scene may only need wonder, relief, or an uncomplicated act of kindness. Use this check where consequence serves the story. You don't have to make every spell hurt.