



LEO & THE SAD

Leo's Magical Coloring Adventure

Xander Kennard

GUARDIAN



Leo discovers a mysterious, oversized coloring book tucked away in a dusty corner of his grandfather's attic. The pages are filled with intricate, empty designs that seem to hum with a faint, magical energy as he brushes his fingers over them.



As Leo touches a drawing of a majestic dragon, he is suddenly pulled into the paper by a swirl of ink. He finds himself standing in a vast, colorless landscape where the sky, the grass, and even the castle in the distance look like giant coloring pages.



He meets a small, friendly ink-blot creature named Pip who explains that the world's color has been stolen by a shadow. Without color, the land of Scribbleia will eventually fade away into nothingness, leaving only blank space behind.



Leo realizes his backpack is still with him, filled with his favorite set of magical crayons and markers. He begins by coloring a small patch of flowers, which instantly bloom into vibrant reds and yellows, filling the air with a sweet fragrance.



They reach the Forest of Lines, where the trees are tall geometric shapes waiting for shade and texture. Leo works tirelessly, adding emerald greens and deep browns to the towering oaks, watching as the leaves begin to rustle in a newfound breeze.



A group of colorless birds chirps sadly from the white branches above, their wings looking like delicate sketches. Leo carefully colors their feathers with brilliant blues and oranges, and they take flight, singing a joyful melody that echoes through the woods.



They arrive at the Crystal River, which is currently just a series of jagged, transparent outlines on the ground. Leo uses his brightest sky-blue crayon to fill the water, and it immediately begins to sparkle and flow toward the thirsty meadows.



High atop the Monochrome Mountain, they find the source of the grayness—a lonely giant who never learned how to create beauty. Leo doesn't fight him; instead, he offers the giant a giant-sized golden crayon and shows him how to fill the world with light.



Together, Leo and the giant color the final sunset, painting the sky with magnificent streaks of violet, gold, and crimson. The magic of their shared creativity restores the Great Palette, and the entire world of Scribbleia erupts into a symphony of color.



Leo wakes up back in the attic, holding his finished coloring book tightly against his chest. Though he is home, his crayons now glow with a faint, magical light, reminding him that he has the power to bring color to any world he imagines.