EMOTIONAL VALUE TOOL

Strong settings will have special meaning to your protagonist and possibly other characters. This emotional value is something writers build into the setting. To craft an emotionally charged scene, fill in the shapes below with possible emotional triggers (people, symbols, etc.) that can amplify your character’s feelings, remind her of the past, and show her options for the future—all of which will nudge her toward a specific decision, or action. (Sourced from The Urban Setting Thesaurus: A Writer’s Guide to City Spaces.)

LOCATION

What past event or current problem does this setting symbolize? Plant details that trigger emotions tied to it.

INNER CONFLICT

What internal struggle is the character facing? How do events or natural activity within the scene help to show this?

CHARACTER’S EMOTION

What unresolved feelings are stirred up for the character? How do the “type” of people around the character (if present) trigger emotion?

WEATHER & ATMOSPHERIC TRIGGERS

What weather or atmospheric elements supply mood? How does setting sway the character and is a decision made as a result?

RESULT

What past event or current problem does this setting symbolize? Plant details that trigger emotions tied to it.
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