

## A Castle

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In a magical place, there is a forest. A forest that no one has seen, a forest that no one has stepped foot in... This peculiar forest hides a castle. A castle that is monstrous and unusual...

Tom wakes with a start. His mother is yelling at him to wake up. He slowly gets out of bed and hastily gets ready. Before going down to breakfast he looks in the mirror and finds all the pimples on his pale face. In his mind, Tom imagines the 'popular' boys teasing him. He instantly regrets the thought and hurries to breakfast. When he arrived at the old wooden table, Tom's dad was reading the newspaper and drinking coffee. Breakfast is always the same: soggy porridge. You see, Tom's family isn't that rich. His dad has a business, but it isn't going well. Tom finished his breakfast, ran up the stairs, skipping one at a time to pack his tatty old backpack. "Tom you're late. Hurry up!" His dad said in an impatient voice. "Bye Mum." Tom jumped into the front seat of the car.

His dad was driving the car and suddenly the old four-wheeler started to cough and slow down. "We're out of petrol!" Tom's dad called out in his brushy voice. Tom was already late, and this did not help. He decided that it was best if he just walked to school. He walked quite quickly and in a few minutes his dad and the car were out of sight.

Tom's school is far away from his house. Even if Tom walked quickly, it seemed like he wasn't getting anywhere. After an hour of exhausted walking, Tom noticed a forest. He had never seen this forest before, even when his dad drove him that exact way to school. He was already late so he thought that a little glance wouldn't hurt. Tom crossed the road and stopped in front of the forest. His heartbeat increased rapidly. For some reason his confidence turned into fear. He made up his mind: He was going to enter the forest, look around and exit it. It was a plan.

Tom placed his right foot into the ghostly forest. Twigs snapped and leaves rustled. Very slowly, he crept up the forest. It was lit by a gloomy light. Tom trudged up to the

heart of the sombre and quiet forest. He was not following the plan. It took half an hour to get to the middle. Something behind the trees was glowing in a menacing way. Tom pushed the trees aside without struggling because they were as light as a feather. He saw something that he didn't expect. A castle. It was sinister and intimidating. It was made with brick and looked like it was going to collapse any moment.

Tom stared at the castle, dumbstruck. He wanted to run but his feet were stuck onto the ground. He stood there for 5 minutes thinking what this castle might be or what it might be hiding. Finally, after ages of thinking, he decided that he needed to know what was inside the un-canny castle. He dragged his feet up some stone steps to the entrance of the castle. The doors were enormous, and it had a spine chilling sensation. It had a skull as the doorknob. Tom freaked out. He was instantly disgusted. He carefully turned the sickening skull and the door opened with a creak.

Tom hesitated at first but then he took his first step into a room lit by torches of fire. The torches made eerie shadows on the walls. In the room, there was a table, a chair and a shabby couch. Tom walked for a while, but then he felt that someone was following him. Whenever he looked around, everything was normal. He walked for a few minutes, but he felt like he was unsafe. Tom decided that it was best to get out of this strange castle. When he turned around to go back, he saw a figure in black cloth move to the other side of the dark room. Tom was startled. Without thinking, he took a run for it. Suddenly the figure was right behind him. When he got to the door, Tom tried with all his might to open it, but it wouldn't budge. The figure grabbed Tom's collar... Tom screamed, gagging.... He wished with all his heart that he had never ventured into this castle...