

## THE BOY

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In London, 11-year-old Lily sat in an empty compartment on the Castell Express. A few moments later a girl about her age with short brown curly hair sat down as well. She stuck out a hand. "Emma." she said. Lily shook her hand. "Lily." she said. "Are you going to Castell School of Magical Education?"

"I think we all are." smiled Emma.

"Both my parents went here," said Emma. "It's like a family tradition."

"Oh." replied Lily. "I'm the first of my family to come here."

Emma handed Lily a silver necklace with a ruby pendant. "It's supposed to be for luck. I have one too... But mine is a sapphire."

They noticed a lonely blond boy sitting in the compartment next to them.

"Should we ask him to sit with us?" asked Lily. "Definitely." smiled Emma.

Lily opened the compartment next to theirs.

"Hello." she said. The boy looked up. "I'm Lily and this is Emma."

"Tom." he said.

"Well, um do you want to sit with us?" asked Lily

"No thanks. You're better off sitting by yourself." Tom said.

Emma and Lily left Tom's compartment.

"Weird." said Emma. "No one ever says no to sitting with me."

Lily was determined to get Tom to sit with them. "No one should ever be sitting alone." "Lily, we're not wanted. C'mon." pleaded Emma.

But Lily couldn't get it out of her mind every time she looked over, she thought "why would someone not want to sit with us."

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“Emma! Do you remember what he said?”

“Of course. That he didn’t want to sit with us.” Emma replied.

“Noooo. Not that. He said *“You’re better off sitting by yourself.”* Do you know what that means?”

“He doesn’t like us?” asked Emma.

“No. He is either dangerous or scared. And trying to protect us.”

“Well, that seems out of the ordinary.” Emma said. “No-” Lily was cut off.

“Did you know we get sorted by pulling sticks? And the houses we get sorted into are: Tellanest, Eversola, Lysterine and Margorther.”

“You’re changing the subject.” Lily said annoyed. “Yes, I truly am.” Emma replied.

“Look!!” someone squealed. “Castell!!! Right there!”

Lots of whispers started going around the express.

“I heard the castle was built in 990.” someone said

“I heard it was made by a famous witch named Loterina.” someone else said.

“That’s what it looks like?” asked Lily.

“Yep.” said Emma.

“It’s beautiful.” Lily said dreamily

The Castell Express came to a stop.

“Newbies! Newbies!” called a large man. “This way!”

He led them into a large door filled with carvings of dragons, trolls, unicorns and many more. They all sat at a long table and the older people were already split into four sections.

A tall woman stood up and said “Let the sorting begin!”

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A bunch of names were called until it came to...

"Livens, Lily." called the chair. Lily walked up to the chair and sat down in it. The chair gave Lily 4 sticks and pulled one out.

"EVERSOLA!" called the chair. There was cheering from the Eversolas. Lily skipped over to them.

A few minutes later the chair called: "Orse, Emma." Emma sat down in the chair and the chair gave her a stick.

"EVERSOLA!" yelled the chair. There was more cheering from the Eversolas.

Finally, after a long time, "Craindre, Tom." called the chair. There were a lot of gasps and whispers. The chair put its arms over itself to make sure Tom did not sit there. Tom just stood there awkwardly. The chair handed him a stick shakily.

"Lysterine." it murmured. There was slight cheering from the Lysterines.

"No wonder he said we're better off without him." Emma whispered to Lily.

Food magically appeared on the table.

"Ooooooh! Yum!" squealed Lily.

After dinner, Lily and Emma with all the other Newbies went into their dormitories. Lily and Emma shared a dormitory with two other girls; Elizabeth and Grace. That night, Lily couldn't sleep. All she could think about was Tom and why he didn't want to sit with her and why everyone was scared of him.

The next morning Lily had no classes so she decided to go to the library and do some research. In the library she saw Tom walking around near the monster's section and Emma near the book club corner. Lily started slowly walking towards Tom but as soon

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as she was a foot away from him, he fled, running through the many piles and piles of books.

A shiny book caught Lily's eye. She opened it and found a whole section of regular people being scared of people like Tom. she flipped to that section and to her surprise found out exactly who he was. Lily ran to Emma, who was still near the book club corner and told her exactly who Tom was.

"No way!" Emma whispered loudly.

"Yes way!" The girls ran up into their dormitory and took the book with them.

"So, you're saying he has no soul?" Emma asked.

"Yes, and also he might be from the past. He's a passe."

"He has no soul, he's a passe and-?"

"And he's the heir of the most feared person in this magic world."

"How is he from the past?"

"I don't know?" Lily said, scared.

"And how do you know he's the heir of the most feared person in this magic world?" Emma asked.

"I could tell. By the last name Craindre. It's French for "to fear". The most feared person in this magic world was French. He came from France." Lily responded.

Later that night Emma and Lily did more research on passe's. Soon morning came and Lily and Emma didn't have classes that day so they went to the library again to see if they could see Tom. He was there. Lily and Emma slowly walked towards Tom.

"We know who you are." Emma said slowly. "You're a passe."

Tom seemed very surprised.

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“How do you-?”

“Where are you from? Who are you?” Lily asked.

Tom motioned to come with him. He was very pale.

“It’s not safe to talk here.” he said.

Emma and Lily followed Tom up a corridor and into a tower. He made sure no one was there. “You’re right. I am a passe. I am the heir of the most feared person in this magic world. I am.”

“But who are you and where did you come from?” Lily questioned.

Tom sighed and said, “In 1987 I was born and 11 years later I came here. I got lost in the woods and my soul was taken. When your soul gets taken, you don’t get older. Each year I tried coming here again and going to school here but I needed a powerful person in order to come here. Lily, you were powerful enough for me to come here.”

Lily looked bewildered.

“And so I will never get older or younger.” finished Tom

Emma looked like she was going to cry any second. But she didn’t.

Tom got up and left.

Emma and Lily exchanged looks. They smiled and laughed. They got up and left for their dormitory. On their way there they smiled again.

“Oh well.” said Emma.

Lily smiled back. She touched the ruby that hung around her neck.

“I guess that the necklaces do bring us luck.” Lily exclaimed.

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Tomorrow they had classes, for the first time. And so, their real journey begins at Castell School of Magical Education for many years to come.