



HALLOWEEN STORY

[Edited version]

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It was Halloween yesterday, and Alex's birthday too. He invited Tom, his best friend over to his house. They were watching ghost movies and Tom was somehow distracted and found two strange looking masks lying on the floor. Before Alex could stop him, he already donned one on and vanished. Alex picked up the remaining mask, took a deep breath and wore it.

Moments later, he opened his eyes and found himself lying beside a tomb. There were only trees around him and he was nervous.

Suddenly, a wizard appeared in front of him, grabbed his hands and murmured something, and the world spun around him. He woke up once again and this time he found himself in a small hut. The wizard who brought him there started speaking. "Finally... you've come." Alex asked, "What?? Where's this place? Where's Tom?"

The wizard handed him a cup of tea and said, "Calm down, I will explain everything. Firstly, my name is John. Here is the otherworld where all dead people gather, like zombies, vampires, werewolves, ogres, mummies and all evil creatures you can imagine. A long time ago, they invaded the human world and had had a huge battle with humans; our wizard ancestors finally beat them, forced them into this otherworld, and then sealed the entrance with all their magical powers. They have been trying to escape for hundreds of years and **TODAY** they are going to succeed."

The wizard took a sip of tea and continued, "Black magic is strongest on Halloween day. They have prepared the rituals and spells for tonight and the only thing they need now is a living human. Unfortunately, your friend Tom has been captured for such a sacrifice." "Why Tom?" Alex asked anxiously. John continued, "They intended to capture you because you are the only one who can beat them. There had been a prophesy saying that whomever the boy who was born on Halloween would be able to beat the evil force forever. Now, you are the only one who can stop them and save your friend. The ritual will start at midnight; we only have 4 hours left."

After 15 minutes of basic training, Alex was sent back to the tomb with a wand and an enchanted amulet which allowed the bearer to see through all illusions. Now, with the help of the amulet, he did not see trees everywhere anymore, instead, he saw a straight road leading up to a huge castle. He heard something coming and quickly cast the newly learned invisible spell. Being truly invisible is impossible, but with a certain level of concentration, he could make himself invisible in front of people.

He saw an army of zombies coming and followed them in his invisible stage. They soon arrived at the castle, where everyone seemed to be gathering at the courtyard. He found Tom tied onto a log in the middle. Alex stealthily approached Tom and snapped the ropes. Suddenly, there was a loud explosion and three witches appeared. Everyone hoorayed! Alex was distracted and the invisible spell stopped working, only to find himself surrounded by the whole monstrous army. The witches raised their bows and shot immediately, but the arrows were all blocked by an invisible barrier.

Alex remembered when John handed him the amulet. He told him that it would unleash its true power in the most dangerous time. The witches stopped shooting but started the ritual and a grey portal appeared. Alex quickly grabbed Tom and ran through it together, while beams of evil spells were shot at them. Alex threw the amulet at the portal, and in split second, everything stopped, with the portal closing slowly behind. Now, the rift between the two worlds had finally settled and the monsters would never return.

Alex zipped home with Tom and enjoyed the rest of the night, continuing their Halloween and birthday celebration...as if nothing had happened.