

No. 16

Starlight Pearl

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(Junior Category)

All my life I have found danger or danger has found me. My name is Tammy Barlow and this is my story of how I went from an average teenager - to a powerful teenager!!

My life was just about exactly the same as every other teenager in Britain. My whole life would just revolve around one thing and one thing only – SCHOOL!

My story begins when my mum told me that she had signed me up for a boarding school, in Miami. I won't lie, I wasn't too thrilled about being shipped off, halfway across the world but I didn't really have any choice. My mum said it will help me discover who I really am – Whatever that means.

I had seen the brochures for this school – St Bernard's; it just looked like any ordinary high school - except it was in a holiday destination.

When I arrived at the boarding school, it didn't look exactly the same as the brochure, in fact - they didn't look anything alike. The brochure I had seen showed the school as plain and boring – the school I was looking at was dark and creepy.

Imagine a prison then imagine the prison filled with rebellious teenagers - that was what St Bernard's looked like.

When I first walked through those big metal gates, I could tell my life would never be the same again. Walking in too that school felt amazing like that was what my whole life had waited for – I was right.

I wasn't expecting much from this school and I wasn't expecting strange new friends. I got them though, Chantelle Forshaw and Daniel Forshaw. Twins - the funniest, nicest, best twins in the world.

I wasn't going to ask for a strange new lesson schedule either but I got that too. My schedule didn't include Maths, Science or English. I had Wizardry 101 and Broom Stick Magic. These classes were strange, weird and completely insane - but tons of fun.

One thing I had realised was every teenager in this school was magic, in one way or another. Some were witches - some were wizards. Me, on the other hand, I was neither. I wished and wished to become a witch but everyday I woke up as the same old Tammy Barlow.

Me, Chantelle and Dan all came up with a plan so I could stay in this mad school. As, if anyone ever realised I was 'mortal.' I would go back to my boring old life, where school was my main priority.

Our plan was that in the old supply cupboards in the basement!! There were starter wands there and these wands held magic. You couldn't tell the difference between these and your normal wand.

Only the people using them could, and that's how mortals could have magic. I used one off these wands each lesson and the plan worked – for a while anyway. The school started to get suspicious!!

Honestly though, I am glad the school started to get suspicious, if they hadn't, I would never of found out a way I could actually receive magic. There is one way and one way only. This path is dangerous for some and easy for others, no-one actually knows why that is though.

Chantelle and Dan knew this way - but people have died on this quest and me, well, - little, local Tammy Barlow from Cardiff – well I'm not exactly a hero now am I?

So now I am writing this, reviewing my past, just in case I never come back.

My plan is to find the famous wizardry 'Starlight Pearl' – This pearl is so magical, wizards dream about it. The pearl only reveals itself to the people whose intentions are pure. The pearl will do whatever your heart desires most. That means it could take you some where, give you something – anything. The pearl is dangerous – easy to find for some but hard to let go.

The pearl has only ever revealed itself to 2 wizards! So what makes me think it will reveal itself to me – who knows. I have to try. It's my destiny.

So now I am walking, away from the school, away from my friends – away from everything I have.

I am walking but have no idea where I am going. Before I left - Dan said to me, "There should be a point in your journey when everything will become clear. That will mean - where you are, where you need to go and if you get to that point it means the pearl is close", I took that as his good luck to me. Secretly though I knew that my friends wanted me to succeed but doubted I would.

While I was walking I was thinking. How hard would it be on the quest? I would probably die and for what powers? Was it worth it? For me, personally, yes – the thrill of the magic going through my blood - the sensation I get when I use it – was like my fate, my destiny. I would risk everything I had for this. You may not understand why, but for me it was the easiest decision in the world.

I started walking faster – I don't know why but I felt that I was in danger. More danger than I ever have been. Well, not like I was in danger but that my choices were becoming dangerous.

My feet, they are still in pain but I don't know why. My whole body is hurting, like an everlasting pain. Imagine yourself getting poked with 1 million burning pins. That was what I was feeling like, inside and out.

I was feeling so sore, I wanted to turn back but I knew that wasn't an option. I sat down somewhere on a rock. I thought resting a while would make me feel better, but it did the opposite.

I was lost; I knew that - I waved my starter wand, thinking, hoping that power was still in it. I did one thing knowing that I needed to take the pain away, I did a spell!! I don't even think I heard it before but I knew it, "FURISHA SUPA". I said the spell and I put myself into a bubble, a nice, cold, comfy bubble.

After that one spell everything seemed brighter, happier like the spell had put hope back into me.

I did one last thing, something that would help me, give me some guidance. One thing everyone has to know, something I had just learnt, in times of trouble - friends and family will always be there for you.

So.....I did a spell, a spell that could go terribly wrong, something that could damage others brains, but I held it together. As it was in

the night – as I was looking for the STARLIGHT PEARL. Everyone I knew would be asleep, enjoying their dreams.

I did the spell, the spell to get into others dreams – I decided to do Chantelle, as if anyone could help, me she could.

When I finished saying the spell, Chantelle appeared in front off me. I knew it wasn't the real Chantelle though - it was a hologram. Chantelle was really tucked up in bed.

“Tammy, where in the world are you?” Chantelle said without a hello or how have you been. “I have no idea. I'm lost, I don't know what to do”, I said, sniffing abit.

“I know that place, you're stood on the top of Witch-Crow volcano – How haven't you been burned alive?” Tammy said looking confused. I could tell from her face though she did know the place, like it had a hidden back story to it. “Oh - I think I was about to burn but I made a bubble around me.” I said feeling quite proud of my accomplishment.

“Tammy, You should still be burnt alive. - I think you have nearly found the pearl. I think it's at the top off the volcano. Like Dan said there'll be a point where everything will become clear. I'm sorry but

the teachers will know I'm talking to you – I have to go. Good luck”, Tammy said, and just like that she was gone.

I carried on going up the volcano, but knowing it was a volcano made it a lot harder. The earth started to feel like it was moving, like I was about to fall through into the centre of the earth. It was hard but I got there in the end.

When I finally got to the top off the volcano and when I saw the bubbling lava – I knew, I knew everything – I knew where the pearl was. I knew why wanted it. Everything.

It felt like there was a massive arrow pointing right towards the pearl – one that I had only just noticed. I climbed over some rocks and through some caves and finally right where I was standing, the pearl appeared.

The Starlight Pearl was the prettiest sight in the whole world. The pearl was pink but had a star trapped in the middle. The prettiest, most gentle thing in the world was right in front of me – arms length distance.

I picked the pearl and closed my eyes, I didn't know what I was looking for but when I opened them I was not in the same place.

I was in a corridor, a dark corridor. There were windows but that was it. No door. No Entrance. No exit.

I stood and looked out the window; the sight I was looking at was so pretty - time just flew by. I didn't know where I was but I didn't care. I was safe, I was cosy and I was happy - that's all I cared about.

Suddenly there was a figure behind me, I didn't turn to look at her as I already knew who she was. "Beautiful isn't it?" She said I turned and I was looking at the most beautiful woman in the world. Her eyes made the stars look like they weren't shining, her hair fell perfectly without her even trying. It was a true honor to be stood in front of her.

"With all due respect ma'am why am I here?" I said as I turned back to glance out the window. She took the pearl out of my hand; I had forgotten I even had it. She stared at it for a moment and said "I remember the day I put that star in this pearl, they were so important presents that I had received from dear ones - so I decided to put them together. I put the power in the pearl to give immortals things that are dear to them. You wanted powers and fit all the rules - fortunately, you have had powers all along, you just didn't realize because you were using a starter wand. Your great grandmother was a very powerful witch, so it's in your blood." She said - normally I wouldn't have believed someone who had told me that, but coming out of the

Grand witch's mouth – one of the creatures of magic, I believed her and smiled.

“I'm glad you believe me – now you have collected my pearl, anything you want is yours”, she said. I turned and looked at her, she knew exactly what I was thinking and I said “But I don't want anything, I have everything I all ready want”. She smiled with her soft blue eyes looking at me and said “That is why; I want to give you a present, something personal and something powerful. You will become a great Witch”, she said as she passed me the starlight pearl. I was about to protest but in a second she was gone.

That is my story, so far but I am 100% certain – my life has a lot more to give. I don't miss being boring, even if what I have becomes life threatening – I LOVE IT!

The End