# The Farmhouse

AARISH GUPTA

BlueRose ONE .com
Stories Matter
New Delhi • London

**BLUEROSE PUBLISHERS**
India | U.K.

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ISBN: 978-81-6744-746-3

Cover Design: Ajay Dhyani
Typesetting: Sagar

First Edition: October 2026

Mentored by
**The Academic Enrichment Classes**
*(aecbeyondtheclassroom.com)*

# About The Author

My name is Aarish Gupta, and I am 10 years old. I love reading books, especially thrillers and mysteries. I enjoy trying to solve mysteries as I read, and I like getting lost in all kinds of exciting stories. I also enjoy gaming, which keeps me entertained, and I love playing outdoor sports such as lawn tennis and basketball. I especially enjoy writing narratives. This book is based on one of my old stories, which I have now turned into a full book in one of my after-school English sessions.

I would love to write Part 2 someday. This book means a lot to me because it is something I have always wanted to write, and I am very happy to finally share it with you.

I hope you enjoyed reading it! Don't forget to tell others about the book. If you are brave enough, try reading it at night before going to sleep. That is when the story becomes even more bone-chilling!

Happy reading!

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## CHAPTER 1

# THE NEW HOUSE

It was a sultry evening in the City of Joy when the Jamie family told their children that they had to pack their treasured belongings because they were moving to the City of Angels, Los Angeles. Their house was being renovated, and Max's mother was becoming aged. After quickly packing all their belongings, they got into their car and travelled to the airport. They went through security, boarded their flight, and settled into their seats. After a five hour flight, they finally arrived in Los Angeles. They rented a taxi and travelled to their grandfather's farmhouse, which now belonged to the Jamies. When they arrived, they found all their belongings stacked inside the garage. They decided to unpack everything and move their things into their new rooms. Outside, the sky was pitch black, and there was not a single star to be seen. Although it was summer, the air felt strangely cold. Dogs and coyotes howled in the distance, making the night feel even more mysterious. The Jamies were in the garage sorting through their

belongings when they noticed an old game called a Ouija board lying in a dusty corner. It looked like it had been forgotten for years. They were curious about it, so they took it out and decided to play with it, hoping it would help them relax after their tiring journey. As they opened the box and began reading the instructions, the lights suddenly started flickering. A window shattered, and every clock in the house chimed at exactly 12:00 a.m. Then the lights went out. Max suddenly felt a sharp scratch on his back. He quickly turned around, but there was nothing there except darkness. Moments later, the lights flickered back on. Everyone looked at the Ouija board and noticed that its pointer had moved. It had spelled four letters: D...E...A...D.

## CHAPTER 2

# STRANGE THINGS

Everyone became terrified. They quickly threw the Ouija board outside and decided that they should go to bed. At exactly midnight, their grandfather's old clock rang once again, followed by every other clock in the house. Strangely, no one heard the sound except Lisa Jamie, who was still feeling unwell. She woke up and heard what sounded like her children playing downstairs with the haunted Ouija board. Worried, she got out of bed and walked downstairs to tell them to go back to sleep. However, when she reached the living room, nobody was there. Confused, she went to her children's bedroom and found all of them fast asleep. She convinced herself that she must have imagined the sounds. As she walked back towards her room, every painting on the staircase wall suddenly crashed to the floor. Once again, she heard the eerie sound of children laughing and playing. She froze in terror. Out of the darkness stepped a figure that looked exactly like Max. "What are you doing? Come back to bed," the figure

said calmly. Before Lisa could answer, the figure suddenly vanished into thin air. Panicking, Lisa ran back to her bedroom, hoping that everything had been nothing more than a nightmare. She climbed into bed and tried to calm herself down. Then she felt something warm trickling down her back. She reached behind her and looked at her hand. There was blood on it. It was coming from a wound near her shoulder blade. Lisa was frightened and in pain, so she went into the bathroom and cleaned the wound under the warm shower. After taking a shower, she covered the wound with gauze and a bandage. She was afraid of waking everyone up and causing panic in the house. The next morning, at the breakfast table, Lisa gathered the courage to tell everyone what had happened during the night. Jeremiah immediately dismissed her story. "What you're saying is unbelievable, Mom!" he said. Max and Benjamin, however, were confused and worried after hearing what had happened in their own home. While they continued eating their pancakes, Max suddenly remembered that he had heard strange noises while he was asleep. He had thought they were only dreams. Then Benjamin spoke. "A painting from the bathroom wall in my room was on the floor when I woke up this morning! Does that have something to do with what happened, Dad?" Jeremiah laughed and ran outside to shoot some basketball shots. He complained about the paintings falling down and

about the bats that had been flying around their house. Every morning, all the members of the Jamie family sat together for breakfast and prepared themselves for the day ahead. While Max got ready for his routine job, Lisa settled the house after sending her children off for the day. She thought about how she could return to work. Before the unfortunate accident, she had worked as a real estate broker, and she hoped that she could return to her career someday. Jeremiah's school life was as boring as a school day could be. His school focused almost completely on studies and academics and did not provide much exposure to co curricular activities. Jeremiah dreamed of publishing his own book one day, but his school always discouraged him from following that path. Benjamin's new job at Walmart was a stepping stone towards his career. He wanted to enter brand management over the next few years. His main goal was to impress his superiors and earn enough credit to get promoted. Benjamin usually worked the morning shift. However, on the 1st of September, his senior manager instructed him to work the night shift because the store needed serious rearrangement after a large stock delivery. While Benjamin was arranging the products for the next day, he heard some unfamiliar noises. He decided to ignore them. He was just about to leave the store after placing the new products on their assigned shelves when he heard the crying sound of an infant. He ran to the

other side of the aisle, only to realise that the sound was coming from a doll that had fallen onto the floor. The doll had a creepy expression on its face, but Benjamin ignored it and put it back where it belonged. As he walked towards the door, he heard the same crying sound again. Benjamin thought that he might be imagining things. He decided not to think about it and rushed home for a late night snack. When he reached home, he was unusually exhausted and did not have the energy to search for anything in the pantry. Instead, he decided to go straight to bed and save the story for breakfast. The next morning, Benjamin told his family what had happened at Walmart. Jeremiah burst into laughter and called his elder brother a scaredy cat. Lisa scolded Jeremiah and told Benjamin to get some sleep so he could recover from his tiring night. Max also told Benjamin to forget about what had happened and return to work. He thought it might have simply been a dream. After eating breakfast, Benjamin left for his job and slammed the door behind him. That day, Max had a very tiring day at his office because his boss gave him extra work. He had to stay all afternoon while almost everyone else had already left. He felt completely alone while working on his accounts. Suddenly, his computer switched off and then turned back on. A video about missing people began playing on the screen. Max thought that his computer was malfunctioning, so he

ignored it and continued working. After finishing his work, he went home. When he arrived, he went to the dinner table and talked about his day, completely forgetting about the strange video. After eating the pasta that had been prepared for dinner, Max went to his room, changed into his pajamas, took his medicine, and went to sleep. Meanwhile, Jeremiah was walking home when he encountered his friend Jamal. They stopped and chatted for a while. As soon as Jamal left, the sky suddenly became dark and gloomy. When Jeremiah turned right at the corner, a leaf fell from a tree. He did not think anything strange about it and continued walking towards his house. Suddenly, the leaf that had fallen onto the ground lifted into the air and flew back towards the tree. Then, just as suddenly, the sky became blue again. Jeremiah was shocked. He was young and had never experienced anything so strange before. He quickly ran home. When he reached the house, he saw Lisa reading a book. He immediately told her what had happened. Lisa told him that it was probably just a dream or something he had imagined after reading too many horror stories. That night, everyone went to their rooms and went to sleep. The next morning, Jeremiah went to the garage to get the batteries his mother had asked for. While searching through the rusty and dusty garage, he suddenly spotted something familiar. It was the Ouija board. Jeremiah became terrified when he saw

it lying in the same place where they had found it before. Then he noticed a letter behind the Ouija board. He picked it up and opened it. Inside were documents about the previous owners of the farmhouse. The name of the owner was Mr. Miosk. Jeremiah had never heard of him before, so he called his family downstairs to help him understand what was happening. Everyone was confused, so they decided to eat lunch first and discuss the situation together. They sat around the dining table and carefully read through the documents. The names written on them were Mr. Miosk, Anne Miosk, and Guilbert Miosk. The family assumed that they were the people who had previously owned the farmhouse. They decided that they needed to explore the farmhouse and learn more about the Miosk family. They checked the rooms one by one until they found the second master bedroom. Inside was a drawer containing a letter. Curiously, they opened it and found a photograph that had been torn into four pieces. They joined the pieces together and looked at the photograph. Then Max remembered that he had a diary in his room containing a similar photograph. He ran upstairs, brought the diary back, and read it carefully with his family. After reading it, Max realised that the person in the photograph was connected to his family because the name Jamie appeared at the end of it. Suddenly, Max had an idea. He suggested that they collect all the newspapers they could

find in the house because they might contain a clue. They started searching room by room and collecting old newspapers. They found many of them and began looking for anything that could give them information about the Miosk family. After nearly an hour, Jeremiah suddenly called his father over. "Dad, look at this!" He had found a paragraph about a missing family.They read the article carefully. It said that the Miosk family had disappeared from their farmhouse after a long investigation. Nobody knew where they had gone, and it was as if they had vanished into thin air. Then Max remembered the video of missing people that had appeared on his computer. "Follow me," he told his family. They got into their old broken car, and Max drove to his office, which was located in the middle of nowhere. They entered the office and went straight to the computer where the strange video had appeared. They turned on the old computer and opened the history. Then they replayed the video about the missing people. As the video reached the part about the Miosks, the computer suddenly switched off. They tried several times, but the same thing happened. They became frustrated and decided to leave. They drove back to the farmhouse, thinking that perhaps they were worrying too much and that there was a normal explanation for everything. They tried to resume their daily lives. Max continued going to the office regularly, while the others

went about their usual routines. One day, while Max was working, his computer suddenly flickered on and off. The other computers in the office did the same thing. Max assumed that there was an electrical problem. He went to look for the electrician, but he could not find him. He asked the security guard whether the electrician had left. "No," the guard replied. "He was just here a minute ago." Max became confused but decided that his mind was probably playing tricks on him. The next day, Jeremiah went to the washroom at school. When he looked into the mirror, he briefly saw a strange figure holding something that looked dangerous. He blinked, and the figure was gone.Jeremiah thought that his boring history lesson might have made him tired, so he washed his face and casually returned to class. At Walmart, Benjamin was helping a customer when the customer suddenly disappeared. Benjamin assumed that the customer had simply walked away, so he continued working. At home, Lisa was making pasta. She picked up some oregano to sprinkle over the food, but it suddenly seemed to disappear from her hands. She thought that she must have dropped it and continued cooking. That evening, the family sat together and talked about their strange experiences. Slowly, they realised that these events might not be coincidences.

## CHAPTER 3

# THE MIOSK FAMILY

They decided to take a walk outside so that they could clear their minds. While they were walking, an elderly neighbour noticed them. "Are you the Jamies?" he asked. Max replied, "Yes. " Max then asked him if he knew anything about the farmhouse. As soon as the neighbour heard the word "farmhouse," he became frightened and walked away. The family realised that there was probably something about the farmhouse that the neighbours knew but did not want to discuss. They decided to take one last look around the entire house. While exploring, they discovered four locked rooms. They decided to open one of them. They found a hammer and began breaking the lock. After several attempts, the door finally opened. Inside, they found a dagger and a letter. The family immediately realised that something terrible might have happened there. After reading the letter, they discovered something even more shocking. The Miosks had not disappeared. They had been murdered.

## CHAPTER 4

# THE HIDDEN ROOM

The family began to wonder if all the strange events in their lives were connected to the tragic fate of the Miosk family. They decided to investigate the mysterious locked rooms. They took the rusty hammer and broke open another lock. When the second door opened, they entered a room that looked as if nobody had entered it for years. Inside, they found old objects, papers, and photographs. They opened a cupboard and found an ancient camera. A photograph was hanging from the side of the broken camera. They took it down and looked at it. It showed Mr. Miosk shaking hands with someone. Max felt that he had seen the other person before. A small thought appeared in his mind, but he could not remember where he had seen the person. He gave up trying to remember and continued searching for more clues. After a while, it became too much for Max to handle, so the family decided to take a break. They went to the kitchen, took some chips, and sat on their soft couch. They watched television while eating. After

finishing the chips, they returned to the room with fresh minds and searched again. However, they found nothing else. Tired, they went to their rooms and decided to continue the investigation the next day. The next morning was a sunny Sunday. They began investigating the farmhouse again. They entered another room, but it appeared to be completely empty. Then they went to the next room and broke through the wooden door. The room was surprisingly clean. There was only a letter wrapped in paper lying on the floor. They opened it and read the message. It said that Gilbert and Anne should come to the farmhouse because it contained everything they needed, including the pentagon of their ancestors. It also mentioned someone named Cedric and warned them to come quickly before anyone became suspicious. At that moment, Max realised that the room was not actually empty. There could be something hidden inside it. They rushed back into the room. Max began knocking on the walls, trying to find a hollow section that might lead to another room. After a lot of searching, he finally found a wall that sounded different. He took the hammer and began breaking through it. It took a long time, but eventually, he managed to make an opening. Behind the wall was a hidden room. The room had a pentagon shaped design on the floor and contained photographs, papers, strange objects, and many other things. Max and his family carefully examined everything. After reading

the papers, Max realised that the pentagon was connected to rituals involving ghosts and communication with spirits. They also realised that the Miosks were not an ordinary family. They had been involved in strange rituals and had used the Ouija board that the Jamies had found in the garage.

## CHAPTER 5

# THE WARNING

After looking at more photographs and objects, the family became convinced that Cedric had been involved in a serious crime connected to the Miosks. Suddenly, the lights went out. A mysterious figure appeared for a moment and then vanished. The family realised that they could not simply ignore what was happening.They had to find out who was behind everything because they were afraid that the strange events might become even worse. After several more days of unnatural events, Jeremiah realised that the objects flying around and the other strange incidents were not coincidences. They were warnings. Benjamin secretly looked at some of the photographs they had found in the hidden room. Then he noticed a photograph of a doll. The doll looked exactly like the creepy doll he had seen at Walmart. Now Benjamin knew that there was definitely a connection. He quickly took his father's car and drove to Walmart. He went to the same aisle where he had seen the doll. But the doll was gone. Benjamin

knew that something strange was happening, but he still did not know what it meant. Meanwhile, Lisa was spending her free time reading through the old documents. She suddenly realised that the wound on her back was similar to the wound shown in one of the photographs. When Benjamin and Lisa shared their discoveries with Max, the family decided that trying to watch the mysterious video one more time could not hurt. They sat in their car, and Max drove them to his office. They entered the office, went to his desk, switched on the computer, and played the video. This time, the video finally played. It showed the Miosk family carrying grocery bags into their house. Days passed, and newspapers and mail began piling up outside their home. Then they saw a man entering the house next door. The man looked familiar. The family quickly left the office and drove back home.They went to the neighbour's house and knocked on the door. A familiar elderly man opened it. It was the same neighbour who had been frightened when they had mentioned the farmhouse. They asked him one more time if he could tell them anything about the farmhouse. This time, he agreed. With a frightened voice, he told them that after the Jamies moved into the farmhouse, they began performing strange and possibly cursed rituals. He said that one day, he had seen a young man named Cedric enter the house. Cedric had claimed that he was there for a business deal.

However, after that, nobody seemed to leave the farmhouse for an entire year. The neighbour became curious and eventually entered the house himself. Nobody was there. He became frightened and called the police to investigate. "That is all I know," the elderly neighbour said. "But you must be careful. Other families who entered that house never returned. I have already called the police three times because of the silence around that place." The Jamie family stood silently after hearing his words. For the first time, they realised that the mystery of the farmhouse was much bigger than they had imagined.

## CHAPTER 6

# THE DIARY

Benjamin slammed the front door and ran towards the living room.

"Dad and Grandma, we might have company!" he shouted.

Max immediately stood up from the sofa.

"What happened?" Max asked.

Benjamin was breathing heavily.

"I opened the door and there was nobody there. Then a bright light flew past me. I have never seen anything like it." Benjamin was breathing heavily.

Grandma looked at Max with fear in her eyes.

"Did you see anything outside?" Grandma asked.

Benjamin shook his head.

"No. But I felt something pass right beside me." Benjamin shook his head.

Max walked towards the front door.

He looked through the window.

The road outside was completely empty.

There was no person.

There was no car.

There was not even a dog.

Only darkness

Max slowly opened the door again.

A cold wind entered the house.

He looked from one side of the road to the other.

"Nothing."

Then he noticed something on the ground.

A small piece of paper was lying directly outside the door.

Max picked it up.

There was only one sentence written on it.

THE DEAD HAVE NOT LEFT

Max's hands started shaking.

Grandma took the paper from him.

She looked at it carefully.

“This is not over,” she whispered.

Benjamin looked confused.

“But what happened to the skeletons?”

“They disappeared.”

Grandma looked at him.

“They disappeared from your sight. That does not mean they are gone.”

That does not mean they are gone.

Suddenly Oliver began barking from the backyard.

Everyone froze

Oliver barked again.

Max ran towards the kitchen and looked through the back window.

Oliver was standing near the old fence.

His hair was standing up.

He was staring at something in the darkness.

"Oliver!"

The dog turned towards Max.

Then he suddenly ran towards the house.

The back door opened.

Oliver rushed inside and hid behind Max.

Benjamin looked at the backyard.

"What scared him?"

Max did not answer.

Then he saw a shadow moving behind the fence.

It was tall.

It moved slowly.

Max closed the curtains.

"Everyone, stay away from the windows!"

Grandma held the bottle of holy water.

She looked at the clock.

It was still 1:00 a.m.

The second hand had stopped.

"Why is the clock not moving?" Benjamin asked.

Grandma looked worried.

“Because something has stopped time in this house.”

Benjamin stared at her.

“Can a ghost really do that?”

Grandma did not answer.

A loud sound suddenly came from upstairs.

Bang!

Everyone jumped

Then another sound followed.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Something was moving in the attic.

Max grabbed a wooden stick from beside the fireplace.

Grandma stopped him.

“Do not go up there.”

Max looked at her.

“We need to know what is happening.”

“No,” she said.

That attic has been locked for many years.

"Then why is something moving inside it?"

Grandma looked towards the stairs.

"Because someone or something has opened it."

Max slowly walked towards the staircase.

Benjamin followed him.

Oliver stayed close to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah had come down from his room after hearing the noise.

"What is happening?" Jeremiah asked.

Max looked at both his sons.

"Stay behind me."

They slowly climbed the stairs.

The hallway was dark.

The lights flickered above them.

Jeremiah looked at Benjamin.

"Did you see anything when you opened the door?"

"Only a bright light."

"What kind of light?"

"I do not know."

“The light looked almost like a person.”

Jeremiah became silent.

They reached the attic.

The door was open.

Max slowly pushed it further.

The attic was filled with old boxes.

Dust covered the floor.

There were old paintings hanging from the walls.

Benjamin shone his flashlight around the room.

“Nothing.”

Then Oliver began growling.

Max looked down.

Oliver was staring at a box in the corner.

Max walked towards it.

The box was covered with a thick black cloth.

He pulled the cloth away.

There was a strange symbol on the box.

A pentagon

Grandma gasped

“That symbol?”

“You know it?” Benjamin asked.

Grandma nodded

“It was used by the Miosks.”

Max opened the box.

Inside was an old diary.

There was also a photograph.

Max picked up the photograph.

It showed Cedric standing beside the Miosk family.

But there was another person in the photograph.

A tall man stood behind them.

His face was partly hidden by darkness.

Grandma looked at the picture.

Her face became pale.

“Who is that man?” Max asked.

Grandma did not answer.

“Mom.”

“Who is he?”

“His name was Guilbert Miosk.”

Jeremiah looked at her.

“But we thought R K Miosk was the youngest.”

Grandma nodded

“He was.”

“Guilbert was their father.”

Max stared at the photograph.

“Then why have we never heard about him?”

“Because he disappeared long before the others died.”

Benjamin looked at the diary.

“Maybe the answers are inside.”

Max opened it.

The first pages were filled with strange drawings.

There were pentagons.

Daggers

Skeletons

And names

Cedric Jamie

R K Miosk.

Guilbert Miosk

Anne Miosk

Guilbert Miosk

Max turned another page.

Then he stopped.

There was a drawing of their farmhouse.

Under it were the words.

"The house is not the prison.

The land is."

Jeremiah looked confused.

"What does that mean?"

## CHAPTER 7

# THE CURSE

Grandma took the diary.

"The Miosks believed that the land itself had been cursed."

Max looked around the attic.

"Then why did the ghosts follow us?"

"Because you are living on their land."

Suddenly the attic door slammed shut.

Benjamin jumped

The room became freezing cold.

A whisper came from behind them.

"Benjamin."

Benjamin slowly turned around.

Nobody was there.

Jeremiah grabbed his brother's arm.

“Did you hear that?”

Benjamin nodded

“It said my name.”

Then the whisper came again.

“Benjamin.”

This time it sounded like their mother.

Benjamin's face changed.

“Mom.”

Max stepped in front of him.

“Do not listen.”

But the voice continued.

“Benjamin.”

“Come here.”

Benjamin took one step forward.

Max grabbed him.

“No!”

The voice suddenly changed.

It became deep and angry.

“You must come.”

Oliver began barking.

The attic windows opened by themselves.

A powerful wind rushed through the room.

Papers flew everywhere.

Max grabbed the diary.

Grandma held the holy water.

Jeremiah held Oliver.

Then a dark figure appeared near the attic door.

It looked like a man.

Its body was covered in black smoke.

Its eyes were red.

Benjamin stared at it.

"Who are you?"

The figure did not answer.

It raised one hand.

Benjamin suddenly fell to the ground.

"Benjamin!"

Jeremiah rushed towards him.

Max grabbed Benjamin and pulled him backwards.

The figure disappeared.

Benjamin slowly opened his eyes.

“What happened?”

“You fainted.”

Benjamin looked frightened.

“I saw someone.”

“Who?”

“I do not know.”

Then Grandma noticed something on Benjamin's hand.

There was a small black mark.

It looked like a pentagon.

Grandma immediately took his hand.

“This is bad.”

“What is it?”

“The curse has marked him.”

Max looked horrified.

“Can you remove it?”

“I do not know.”

Jeremiah looked at the mark.

"Maybe the dagger can."

They remembered the magical dagger.

It had been used to destroy the evil spirit before.

Max quickly searched the attic.

But the dagger was missing.

It was not inside the box.

Benjamin looked around.

"Maybe someone took it."

Suddenly the attic floor began shaking.

A crack appeared between the wooden boards.

The crack became wider.

Then a black hand came through the floor.

Jeremiah screamed

Max pulled everyone away.

The hand disappeared.

Then another crack appeared.

And another

The entire attic began shaking.

"We need to leave now!" Max shouted.

They ran towards the door.

The door opened.

They rushed down the stairs.

Oliver ran behind them.

They reached the living room.

Max slammed the attic door shut.

Then he pushed a heavy table in front of it.

For several seconds nobody moved.

The house became silent.

Benjamin looked at his hand.

The black mark was gone.

Grandma noticed it too.

"It has disappeared."

Benjamin sighed with relief.

"Maybe it is over."

Grandma shook her head.

"No."

"It means the curse has moved."

"Where?"

## CHAPTER 8

# THE HIDDEN TUNNEL

She looked at Benjamin.

"Into the house."

A loud crash came from the basement.

Max looked towards the basement door.

Jeremiah held Oliver's collar.

"We should not go down there."

But Max knew they had to.

He picked up the magical dagger from the kitchen table.

Everyone stared at it.

It had not been there before.

Benjamin looked frightened.

"Dad."

"Do not touch it."

Max picked it up anyway.

The blade was freezing cold.

Then a voice whispered from the basement.

“Come down.”

Max looked at his sons.

“Stay here.”

“No,” Jeremiah said.

“We are coming with you.”

Benjamin nodded

Max looked at Grandma.

She sighed

Then all four of them walked towards the basement.

Oliver followed

The basement door opened with a long creaking sound.

They walked down the stairs.

The room was dark.

The smell of smoke filled the air.

Benjamin covered his nose.

“Dad, what is that smell?”

Max pointed the flashlight around.

There was nothing burning.

Then Grandma noticed something.

"The floor."

There was a pentagon drawn on it.

It looked exactly like the one from the attic.

Max stepped closer.

"This symbol is everywhere."

Grandma shook her head.

"No."

"It is not the symbol that is everywhere. The land is connected. The house, the farmhouse, the cemetery, everything is connected."

The land is connected.

The house

The farmhouse

The cemetery

Everything is connected.

A sound came from the far corner.

Scratch.

Scratch.

Scratch.

Oliver started growling.

Max pointed the flashlight towards the sound.

A small door was hidden in the wall.

Benjamin stared at it.

“That was not there before.”

Max walked towards it.

The door was covered with strange writing.

Grandma read the words.

“Only the blood of a Jamie can open this door.”

Benjamin stepped backwards.

“Nobody touch it.”

Max looked at him.

“Why?”

“Because the curse already marked him.”

Jeremiah understood

“It wants Benjamin.”

Max shook his head.

"It will not get him."

Then the door opened by itself.

A dark tunnel appeared behind it.

Cold air came from inside.

Grandma whispered

"We need to know where it leads," Grandma whispered.

Max held the dagger.

"Then we go together."

They entered the tunnel.

The walls were made of old stone.

There were photographs hanging from them.

Some were so old that the faces could barely be seen.

Benjamin stopped at one photograph.

"Dad."

Max turned

The picture showed Cedric.

But Cedric was not alone.

He was standing beside Guilbert Miosk.

The two men were shaking hands.

Grandma stared at the photograph.

"That cannot be."

Max looked at her.

"What?"

"Cedric knew Guilbert. They were not enemies at first."

They were not enemies at first.

Jeremiah looked at the picture.

"Then why did Cedric kill his family?"

Grandma looked at the next photograph.

"Because something happened between them."

They continued walking.

At the end of the tunnel was another room.

It was filled with old books.

A large wooden table stood in the center.

There was a metal box on it.

Max opened it.

Inside was a letter.

The letter was written by Cedric.

Max began reading.

"I never wanted to hurt the Miosks. But Guilbert discovered the secret. I had to stop him before he opened the gate."

But Guilbert discovered the secret.

I had to stop him before he opened the gate.

Grandma took the letter.

"What gate?"

Max turned the page.

"The gate beneath the land."

Benjamin felt a cold feeling in his chest.

"What happens if it opens?"

Grandma looked at him.

"The dead will no longer be trapped. They will be free to enter the living world."

They will be free to enter the living world.

A loud sound came from behind them.

"Boom!"

The door slammed shut.

The lights went out.

Oliver barked loudly.

Jeremiah grabbed Benjamin.

Max raised the dagger.

Then someone whispered.

"The gate is already open."

## CHAPTER 9

# THE EMPTY GRAVE

A red light appeared beneath the floor.

The pentagon began glowing.

The room shook.

Books fell from the shelves.

The walls cracked.

Grandma shouted

"Get out!"

They ran towards the door.

But it would not open.

Max hit it with his shoulder.

Nothing happened

Jeremiah tried too.

Nothing.

Benjamin looked around.

"There has to be another way."

Then Oliver suddenly ran towards the far wall.

He began scratching it.

"Oliver!"

The dog continued scratching.

Max ran towards him.

He moved an old bookshelf.

Behind it was a small opening.

Everyone squeezed through.

The tunnel behind it was narrow.

They crawled through it.

The sound of the shaking room became quieter.

Finally they reached another staircase.

Max climbed first.

He opened a wooden hatch.

Bright sunlight entered.

They were outside.

They had come out near the old cemetery.

Benjamin looked around.

The farmhouse was visible in the distance.

Jeremiah stared at it.

“That is where this started.”

Grandma corrected him.

“No.”

“That is where we discovered it. The real beginning is somewhere else.”

The real beginning is somewhere else.

Max looked at the cemetery.

The graves were covered with fresh soil.

Then he saw something.

One grave was open.

“R K Miosk.”

The grave was empty.

“Again?”

Benjamin looked frightened.

“Where did he go?”

A voice answered from behind them.

“I never went anywhere.”

They turned

A skeleton stood between the graves.

It was not holding a dagger.

It was holding an old photograph.

Max raised his dagger.

The skeleton pointed towards the photograph.

Grandma stepped forward.

“Let me see it.”

The skeleton dropped the photograph.

Then it disappeared.

Grandma picked it up.

The photograph showed a young boy.

It was R K Miosk.

But behind him stood Guilbert.

And behind Guilbert was another figure.

Grandma's face became pale.

“Who is that?” Benjamin asked.

Grandma slowly shook her head.

“I do not know.”

Max looked closer.

The figure had the same eyes as Benjamin.

Benjamin stepped back.

“Why does he look like me?”

Nobody answered

The wind became stronger.

The photograph slipped from Grandma's hands.

A voice whispered from the trees.

“Because he is part of the family.”

Max looked at Benjamin.

“What does that mean?”

The voice whispered again.

“The blood of the Miosks runs through him.”

## CHAPTER 10

# ONE OF YOU

Benjamin became terrified.

"No!"

"That is impossible."

Grandma looked at him carefully.

She suddenly remembered something.

"Your grandfather once told me that one of the Miosks escaped."

Max stared at her.

"You never told me that."

"I thought it was only a story."

Benjamin looked at his own hands.

"Then the curse is not attacking me because I am a Jamie."

Grandma slowly nodded.

“It may be attacking you because you are both.”

A terrible silence filled the cemetery.

Jeremiah moved closer to his brother.

“Whatever happens, we stay together.”

Benjamin looked at him.

“You promise?”

Jeremiah nodded

“I promise.”

Oliver barked

Max looked towards the farmhouse.

“We need to get back home.”

They hurried towards the car.

But before they reached it the ground shook.

The cemetery gates slammed shut.

The trees moved even though there was no wind.

The graves began opening one after another.

Grandma held the holy water.

Max raised the dagger.

Jeremiah stood beside Benjamin.

Oliver growled

Then dozens of pale hands rose from the graves.

Benjamin screamed

Max shouted

"Run!" Max shouted.

They ran towards the car.

The hands reached for them.

Oliver ran ahead.

Jeremiah pulled Benjamin along.

Max unlocked the car.

Everyone climbed inside.

Max started the engine.

The car moved.

The cemetery gates opened by themselves.

They escaped onto the road.

Max drove as fast as he could.

Benjamin looked through the rear window.

The cemetery was disappearing into the darkness.

Then he saw someone standing in the middle of the road.

It was Guilbert Miosk.

Max slammed on the brakes.

The car stopped inches away from him.

But Guilbert was not there anymore.

Instead there was a note on the road.

Max got out and picked it up.

It said, "ONE OF YOU WILL NOT SEE THE NEXT SUNRISE."

## CHAPTER 11

# THE THIRTEENTH STRIKE

Benjamin read the message.

His face turned pale.

Jeremiah looked at him.

"It does not have to mean you."

Benjamin looked at his brother.

"I hope not."

Max started the car again.

They drove home in silence.

When they reached the house Oliver jumped out first.

Jeremiah followed

Benjamin stepped out last.

He looked towards the upstairs window.

A figure was standing behind the glass.

Benjamin froze

The figure looked exactly like him.

It smiled

Benjamin turned around.

There was nobody behind him.

Then he heard his own voice coming from the window.

“Benjamin.”

“Come upstairs.”

He looked at Jeremiah.

“Did you hear that?”

Jeremiah nodded

“Yes.”

Max took the dagger.

“Stay close.”

The four of them entered the house.

The front door closed behind them.

The clock showed 11:58 p.m.

Two minutes before midnight.

Grandma looked at the clock.

"We have to stay together until morning."

Max nodded

They sat in the living room.

Oliver stayed beside Jeremiah.

Benjamin sat next to his father.

Nobody spoke

11:59 p.m.

The clock continued ticking.

Then midnight arrived.

The clock struck twelve.

Once.

Twice.

Three times.

It continued

Four.

Five.

Six.

Seven.

Eight.

Nine.

Ten.

Eleven.

Twelve.

Then it struck thirteen.

Everyone froze

The lights went out.

A cold wind entered the room.

Oliver began barking.

A voice whispered from upstairs.

“Benjamin.”

The stairs began creaking.

One step

Then another

Then another

Someone was coming down.

Max raised the dagger.

Jeremiah held Oliver.

Grandma held the holy water.

Benjamin stood behind his father.

A shadow appeared at the top of the stairs.

It slowly came down.

It looked like Benjamin.

But its eyes were completely black.

Max shouted

“Stay away from my son!” Max shouted.

The shadow smiled.

Then it whispered.

“You cannot protect him forever.”

Benjamin suddenly felt a sharp pain in his chest.

He fell to his knees.

Jeremiah grabbed him.

“Benjamin!”

Max rushed towards him.

Benjamin was breathing heavily.

The black pentagon appeared on his chest.

Grandma screamed

“The curse has chosen him.”

## CHAPTER 12

# THE FINAL ATTACK

Max raised the dagger.

"How do I stop it?"

Grandma looked at the shadow.

"You must break the pentagon before midnight ends."

"But it is already midnight," Max said.

Grandma shook her head.

"No."

"This is not our midnight."

"It is the midnight of the dead."

The clock struck thirteen again.

The shadow moved closer.

Benjamin screamed

Max raised the dagger.

And the house filled with a terrible light.

For one moment everyone saw the same thing.

Lisa

Jeremiah

Oliver

Cedric

R K Miosk.

Guilbert Miosk

And Benjamin

All standing inside the pentagon.

Then the vision disappeared.

Benjamin opened his eyes.

“Dad.”

Max held his hand.

“I am here.”

Benjamin looked at him.

“If something happens to me, do not let the Miosks take me.”

Max's eyes filled with tears.

“Nothing is going to happen to you.”

But somewhere in the darkness Guilbert Miosk whispered.

“It already has,” Guilbert Miosk whispered.

The clock stopped.

The black mark spread across Benjamin's chest.

And the magical dagger began to crack.

The curse had begun its final attack.

*To be continued…*