

Title: The Power Within  
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We all have powers hidden deep within us. Some powers can be uncovered easily, whilst others may require us to travel through a more arduous path. However, my journey to unearth my power was empowering in itself.

Because... Many of us don't even realize that we have the power within us!

**December 18, 201**

I sat on the floor of our living room, drawing on a piece of paper. My parents were sitting on the couch, watching the news. I was only half listening, but suddenly, something caught my attention. I stared at the TV in complete shock. On the screen, buildings were crashing down, and there was fire everywhere. The whole city was ablaze, covered in a blanket of smoke.

"Mom...what's that?" I asked, my eyes still staring in terror at the screen.

"It's...nothing, Nes" she replied, but I could feel the tremble in her voice.

"Breaking news! The whole city of Paris is in complete chaos. The streets are filled with screams, as fires break out everywhere. Nobody knows why or how this is happening. What started out as another peaceful day in a beautiful city, soon turned into a disaster. Some witnesses claim they saw aliens, humans with bear heads, horses with human heads, and many more odd creatures."

All of a sudden, a flaming boulder came flying out of nowhere. It crashed into the camera, and the screen turned black. For a minute or so, all we could hear was static. Then a tall figure appeared on the screen. It was wearing a hooded black cloak.

“Beware humans, your time has come to an end.” it said in a raspy voice, “We shall take down every single one of you, leaving no stone unturned. It is now a new era. Arise, my brothers, and take back what was once ours!”

The screen turned black again, and this time it was completely silent.

Then there was a knock on the door. It was harsh, almost like it was going to break the door down.

“Go take Nes and hide!” my dad whispered to my mom.

“But what about you?”

“Go!”

My mom grabbed my hand and ran to the bedroom, tears in her eyes. She lifted up a hidden trapdoor. and told me to go inside. We heard yelling, and the door being broken down. Mom put her finger to her lips, signaling for me to be silent. She whispered so softly, I could barely hear.

“Be quiet, and don’t go anywhere, no matter what you hear. I will be back, I promise.

Remember, do not move.”

And then she left. I heard her covering the trapdoor with a carpet and hurrying out of the room.

There was a lot of yelling and fighting, and then...dead silence.

I heard a deep voice.

“Search the house” it said, almost in a growl.

I felt heavy footsteps scatter all around the house, I heard at least a dozen. I heard the bedroom door open and held my breath, not even moving a muscle. They stomped around for a few minutes and left.

“Nothin’ in here chief”

“Okay, let's move on to the next house then, EVERYBODY OUT!” he yelled.

I waited for a couple more minutes before finally relaxing.

“H-hello?” I whispered, in a hushed tone.

Silent tears started rolling down my face. I curled up and cried myself to sleep.

I woke up a few hours later. My head was hurting, and I was confused about what I was doing in the basement, and then I remembered. The sad memory brought tears to my eyes, but I wiped them away. I got out of the basement and quietly looked around the house, just in case some of the creatures had decided to stay here. I went to the kitchen to look for food, luckily the fridge was full. I decided to read a book to take my mind off of what had happened yesterday. Before I knew it, it was already night time, so I went to bed. I slept in the basement, just to be safe.

The next couple of years were pretty much the same. Wake up, eat, read, sleep, and repeat. Sometimes, I would have to go to the store to get food, and other supplies. On those days I would get up at the crack of dawn, earlier than the creatures, so that I wouldn't get caught, and walk to the nearest store, which was across the street. I would grab everything and get out as fast as I could, back to the safety of my own home. But one day, everything changed.

### **November 29, 2021**

The day started out as usual. That day I had to go to the store. I woke up early, and got ready to leave. When I got to the store, my eyes widened in surprise. There was nothing on the shelves. The store had officially run out. I guess I was always expecting it to happen, I mean, two years is a pretty long time. I sighed. I guess I would have to find a new store. The closest one was about half a mile away, not too bad. I decided to go there.

I went back home and grabbed a couple of things, a flashlight, a water bottle, and a first aid kit - just in case things don't go as planned. I walked for about ten minutes before I reached the building. It was old and hadn't been touched for years. There were vines growing up the side of the building. I quietly went inside, hoping there were no creatures there. I grabbed as many items as I could and stuffed them in a bag. I left the store and started walking back home. Something didn't feel right. I felt like I was being watched. I glanced back and saw nobody there. Still, the feeling remained. I started walking again, this time at a faster pace. I finally reached home and placed the groceries down. About an hour or two later, I heard a knock. Horrifying memories flooded back. *Snap out of it!* I thought to myself. Without thinking, I jumped out of my window and dashed towards the woods. Not even a second later, they noticed me.

“OVER THERE! GET HER!” one of the creatures yelled.

I glanced behind me and saw two creatures in black cloaks following me. Their heavy footsteps shook the ground with each step.

I sprinted through the towering trees, desperately trying to escape my pursuers. I ran for a few more minutes until I reached the end of the forest. Suddenly, I skidded to a stop. All I saw was miles and miles of water in every direction. I glanced behind me to find two figures covered from head to toe in black cloaks. Both of them possessed weapons and shields. Nothing was visible except for their eyes, which remained blank and emotionless. They stood a few feet away from me. I scanned the area around me for something to use as defense but nothing was useful. One of the figures raised a crossbow, aiming it at me. I stayed glued to my spot, frozen with fear.

I heard the click of an arrow getting released. I felt a slight burning sensation in my shoulder. The sensation was getting worse by the second and I noticed a red liquid trickling down onto the ground. The trickle turns into a stream, and next thing I know, I'm laying in a pool of blood. Just as I closed my eyes, a blood curdling scream filled the air. There were more people. I heard shouting, but I understood nothing. The last thing I heard was a voice, before everything went black.

**November 30, 2021**

I open my eyes to find myself in a large room. I stand up and look around, and immediately regret it. I wince in pain, my arm feels like it is going to fall off.

“You should really stay in bed dear, you lost a lot of blood, and you are not really in a condition to be running around right now.” a voice said from behind me.

I quickly turn around, and see a woman. She looks ancient, almost a hundred years old! She looks up at me with kind eyes.

“Are you okay dear? You look frightened!” the old lady said with a worried expression.

“W-who are you....and where am I!!” I asked, looking around the room.

“Well, a couple of our hunters found you. You were being chased by two hybrids, and then you were hit by one of their arrows.” she replied, “Now, you are at our village.”

I looked at my shoulder. It was wrapped in a sticky string, I noticed the string was red, with blood.

“Now that you’re awake, let’s check up on that shoulder.” she said.

She slowly took the string off my arm. She lightly touched the wound and closed her eyes.

“What are yo-”

“Shhh” she cut me off.

Suddenly her hand started glowing. A yellow-green light surrounded my arm. The glow stopped and she opened her eyes once more.

“What just happened?!” I asked her in surprise.

She didn’t say anything, she simply smiled and pointed at my arm. I stared at my arm in shock.

The injury was gone, and I didn’t even feel anything!

“A magician never shares their secrets.” she said with a chuckle, “Now follow me.”

She led me out of the hut, into the town. Outside, there were many more huts, all unique in their own way. Some were bigger or smaller, others had different roofs. She led me through the town, introducing me to different people along the way.

“Hello, Aceso!” a merchant called out as we passed by.

The old lady waved at the merchant.

“Aceso?” I was confused.

“Oh, I must have forgotten to introduce myself, silly me. My name is Aceso Heliand, the healer of this town.” she said.

“Oh! My name is Nes Morgan.” I introduced myself.

“That’s a lovely name dear.” Aceso replied.

She continued showing me around the town, and introducing me to new people. Eventually, it was night time. She showed me to an empty hut and said that I could live here for the time being. I thanked her for everything and went inside the hut. I went to sleep almost as soon as my head touched the pillow.

**December 1 , 2021**

I woke up the next morning and went to meet Aceso. She told me that everyone in this town got injected with a serum that allowed them to have powers. She said that the people in this town use their powers to survive. These are some of the last people alive.

“Now it’s your turn.” she said, grabbing a needle.

Aceso gave me a shot. I can’t say it hurt, but it did leave my arm sore for the next few days.

**December 28, 2021**

About a week after Aceso gave me the shot, I felt a slight tingling sensation in my arm. It was the same as when she had healed my arm. Soon, the tingling sensation was spreading through my whole body, like I had a newfound power surging through every single vein. I decided to ask Aceso what was going on. I didn’t know for sure, but I had a feeling it had something to do with the shot she gave me.

“Now that you have your power, you need to figure out what it is, and control it. Different people get different powers, which allows them to take their roles in our town.”

“So...what’s my power?” I asked

“Well that is something you have to discover on your own, my dear. There is a journey that everybody has to take when they receive their power.”

And with that, she left to care for another patient.