

Annabelle Blume – Stories for Strange Times Entry

Emily stood alone in the forest, an eerie silence surrounding her. The only sound was the faint buzz, coming from the gift she held so closely in front of her. Her hands were suddenly filled with a comforting warmth, a silvery light pulsed from her hands. A tingle ran down Emily's spine. As she stood in the clearing, she could feel the power in her hands growing, and she rushed to put it out. She still hadn't really quite got the hang of it yet.

The orb she was holding had been passed down through generations of women in her family. On her 13th birthday she had received it as a gift from her mother. "The orb's power is unique to every holder but be careful and do not let it overwhelm you. Spend time with the orb, let it speak to you, let it show you your power. You must not let anyone know of this great gift. There are those who wish to use the power to control people and hurt them." Emily's eyes widened as her mother handed her the orb. The light from the orb shone on her face. It looked like there was a shiny liquid lake swirling around inside. She could feel its energy pulsing through her.

She had taken it into the forest into a quiet little clearing to feel its energy. As she walked home through the forest, she suddenly felt the hairs on the back of her neck stand up and she looked around, scared. Everything in her body was telling her that she was being watched. She was quite nervous that someone had seen her powers. Her mother had told her not to show anyone. She looked around wildly, hoping that there was nothing there and that she had just heard the rustle of the breeze. Suddenly she saw movement in the trees beyond where she was standing.

Her heart pounded in her chest - Who was it? What was it? A small face appeared between the trees, all big dark brown eyes and long dark hair, small frame in a pretty dress. It was Violet!! Her heart slowed down, her friend, her best friend in the world. "I'm so glad it's you! I thought it was someone else!"

"Who else would it be??" laughed Violet.

"I don't know," said Emily. "You just startled me!"

Violet looked at the orb, but said nothing, trusting her friend. They linked arms and walked in the direction of home. Emily clutched the orb to keep it safe. She noticed that the calm lake inside the orb had turned into a spiralling whirlpool and thought that it was curious.

What the girls did not notice, in their happiness to be together, was a dark caped figure that silently swished out of the trees behind them.