

To Whoever Finds This

To whoever finds this letter,

Hello. In case this goes wrong, I need people to know my story.

I have a little sister. Normally, that would be annoying enough, but my little sister is different. She has magical powers. If I annoy her, I spend the next few days looking over my shoulder in case she decides to get revenge by shrinking me down or turning me into a pickle.

Our parents have tried their hardest to stop her, but it never makes a difference. There aren't any schools around us that can cater to her needs, so she still has to attend the same school as I do. This is an even worse nightmare.

Obviously, we can't tell anybody what she is like. If they believed us (which is unlikely), they'd run us out of town, or have us locked up. Would you want an all-powerful magician living next door to you? There are perks, I guess. Our dad never has to mow the lawn and our parents have the cleanest cars on the road. All without lifting a finger. But what about if I ask her to tidy my room, or do my homework? No chance.

Sometimes, she uses her powers to humiliate me. Like the time all of my clothes just disappeared while I was talking in assembly. Can you imagine being stood there in just your pants? What could I say, though? My sister is magic and did it on purpose? I think Mr Kablinski felt bad for me, really: he didn't punish me.

To be fair to my parents, they did ground her for that incident. They don't always. I think my dad, in particular, finds some of her antics funny. We were playing basketball in the back garden, the other week, and, sure enough, all of my shots miraculously missed while all of hers dropped in like pinballs. He wasn't laughing when she did the same thing against him though. He soon got the hump.

What can I do about it, though? She's untouchable. And that's why I've set out to give myself superpowers. To fight back. I've read enough comic books to know how it works. A quick gamma-radiation bath or nibble from a willing spider and I should be getting my own back before long. I don't want to leave anything to chance. My friend's dad works at the power plant, and he's managed to get me a barrel of nuclear sludge. I sprayed that over my sister's tarantula and snook into the hospital to give the whole thing a dozen x-rays. One bite from this bad boy and I'm good to go.

And that's where I am, right now. I have the spider in a jar next to me. It's glowing slightly and looks a bit vexed. I've never seen a tarantula bounce around so much. It's clearly much stronger than normal: it's using its fangs to open the lid like a tin-opener.

I think I should go and get this over with. The spider is out now and I've no idea whe...

Reading task:

1. If you had magical powers like the sister, how would you use them to annoy your friends?
2. How would you use them to help people?
3. Do you think the author is sensible to do what they are? How would you have handled it?
4. What do you think has happened at the end of the letter?
5. What do you think happens next?
6. Which word or phrase tells you that there are good points to her powers?
7. How does the author feel about their sister? How do they get this across?
8. List one of the things that the sister has done to the author.
9. Why has the author ended on an ellipsis? What effect does this have on you as a reader?