

## **My strange best friend by Caroline Kusch (7d)**

So, my name is Amy. I'm a normal girl and I live in a little town called Bakersfield. I go to school, play tennis and do gymnastics. I have a lot of friends, they are all "normal", but one of them is strange, very strange. I think she has a secret, maybe thousands, but I'm sure she isn't this sweet girl from the countryside. No! Her name is Cherlyn Anotherlifeasazombie and I think that says all. I mean, maybe it's just a name, but it means that she lives in another life. As an animal or a zombie? No, that's impossible! But it could be real, no, maybe in my dreams. Not in real life. And I think it's her life. I like her. I go to school with her and we talk during the breaks. But that's just all.

And one day I wanted to do my homework, but then I suddenly had a thought. "I mean, I don't know where she lives, we always meet in the park when we go to school and when we talk it's always about school or my life! I know nothing about her. That's so mysterious and scary! I want to know more about her, maybe she has a problem? All the students in my class call her "monster girl", because her name is strange, and she always wears black clothes. But nobody knows something about her and I think she keeps a secret about her life."

At this moment, my mother came in and she asked me to go shopping for Halloween with her. So we went shopping and we bought a nice costume for Halloween. And for his afternoon, I forgot my mysterious friend. In the evening I went to bed, but then my feeling was back again. So I dreamed about Cherlyn, but suddenly I remembered that we are going to write a test on the next day. But I am a weasel! So I got up and I learned all night and I forgot my strange friend.

The next day I woke up late, so I didn't have much time to get ready. I ran to the park where Cherlyn already waited for me. On the way to school we learned together. She was very good at maths, so I could answer all the questions in the test. In the break I said thank you to her and was very happy and I asked her to trick or treat on Halloween together and I also proposed to have a sleepover party at my house. But suddenly she was very sad and said that she already has a party with her family. But it didn't feel right. I was sure it was an excuse! So I talked to her and said, "Cherlyn, do have a problem? You are so strange. I mean, I don't know where you live, what you do or something about your family. So what's your secret." Cherlyn said, "Yes, I really have a problem, it's not just a problem...it's something that changes all my life."

I was so excited" But scared, too. So I said, "Do you want to tell me about it?" But at this moment the bell rang and we had to go in our classroom. We had German with Mrs. Grammar, but we didn't have to write a test or story. We talked with our neighbours about our dreams. So said to Cherlyn that I would

like to have a dog. It was one of my dreams, but my biggest dream was to know her secret and Cherlyn whispered, "My dream...is to have another life." "What? Another life?" That sounds crazy!" So I asked her, "What do you mean with your dream?" After that she whispered, "And you are sure to know this?" I said, "Yes, of course!" Cherlyn answered, "Ok, we meet at 7:30 pm in the park." I asked, "Why so late?" She just said, "No questions, thanks!"

In the afternoon I couldn't do my homework or play tennis. I was so excited! At 7:30 in the evening I went to the park and the sun went down. Cherlyn sat there on an old, black bench. I went to her and she asked, "Are you ready? In two minutes I'm going to be another person."

Five, four, three, two, one and ... suddenly she was ... a zombie. I could not believe it! I wanted to run far away and screamed. But then I thought, "She is my friend and if she ran far away from me I would feel bad and that isn't a nice feeling." So I made a step and it felt good, but very awful, too. She said with a dark voice, "Know you know my secret and this is the reason why I could not sleep at your house." I answered, "But of course, you can! We are going to find a solution!" And suddenly Cherlyn, now the zombie, said, "You're the only person who understands me. I'm so happy about it. In my past, nobody accepted me. Nobody" I know you are talking to a zombie now, but that's me and that is how I am. I am Cherlyn Anotherlifeasazombie." Oh, now the name was clear!

Then she went on, "I hate to be a zombie, I want to be a normal girl like you! And I know there's one possibility maybe one day." I asked her, "When?" She answered, "On Halloween! And you can't free me to be a zombie. I think you are the right person. Amy...you!"

"What, me?" I didn't know if that was the right decision. But I wanted to help her, so I said, "Yes, I can do it." But it wasn't the truth and I asked, "But what do I do to free you?"

The zombie girl said, "I think it's better when you go to bed now and I tell you more about me, my family, my house and the day Halloween tomorrow. It's going to be a big challenge for you. Honestly, I don't know exactly how to do it but I'm sure we can do it together." I thought, "Wow, I have a lot of friends, but she is so nice and scary, but it's a great feeling when somebody says to you: You're the best, thank you!"

After this meeting with my zombie friend, my mom asked me, "Where were you this night? I was very worried. So Miss, I want to hear an answer." I couldn't say, "Hey mum, I met my friend who is a zombie." So I said, "I was at my friend's house, we talked about Halloween and ghosts, so I forgot the time. Sorry, mum!" Puh, she believed me!

That night, I had a dream, a zombie dream. I was a zombie like Cherlyn and my family, too. A crazy dream, but also a bad dream, because nobody believed me.

On Thursday, I woke up like every day. I met Cherlyn in the park like every day. I think it was clear what I did in the morning. But for my other friends it was strange that I was with Cherlyn all the time. They said, "Listen, Amy spends all her time with Cherlyn, the monster girl." And all my classmates laughed. Ok, with one thing they were right. She was a monster, but a nice one.

After school, Cherlyn and I met in the park, where we talked about life, not her zombie life! All her family are zombies. When the sky is dark and the sun goes down, they transform into zombies during the night. I never thought zombies were real, but now I believed in it and I even knew one of them. Cherlyn told me that she lived in a little street named Black Street. But I had one question all the time, why is she a zombie? So I asked her and she said, "So there are good zombies in the world, but there are also bad zombies. My mother had a friend, named Max. Max loved her, but for my mother he was only a good friend and she didn't know that he was a zombie. Once Max was angry at my mother and he banned her with a terrible curse. Not just my mother, also her family."

After her talk, Cherlyn had tears in her eyes, but she continued to tell her story. "Because my mom is a good person, she is a good zombie, too. She wants to meet you, because I told her about you. You could be our rescue!"

So we went to Cherlyn's house. Oh my god, I was so excited! I never went to a zombie house before. It was a black house. We went in it, it was like my house. It was... And suddenly a woman came to use. She looked very friendly. It was Cherlyn's mother. She said, "Hello, are you Amy?" I answered, "Right." She said that she wanted to show me something. She gave me a note and said, "This is a note from Max after he transformed me into a zombie. But Max said: This note can free you if you do all the things right at midnight, but I have to be careful. Because when it doesn't work I am a zombie forever. That means all the time during the day. But you can do this just with another 'normal' person."

I was really shocked. I was so sorry for this family. On the note it said, "Spooky house, graveyard and zombie garden. These are all places where you can find herbs, green blood and zombie tears. From these ingredients you have to create a drink for the zombie persons. I asked, "But why do I have to help?" Cherlyn said, "They just wanted to make it difficult because mostly zombies aren't popular, so they think that we don't have any friends. But we are good zombies!" Her mother said, "Herbs, we are going to find them in the zombie garden, green blood we are going to find in the zombie house and zombie tears we can find on the graveyard. When the sun is going down you will meet Cherlyn in the park.

We aren't going with you because it's inconspicuous. "And you really want to do this? What happens when the plan doesn't work?" I asked. Cherlyn said, "Then it isn't your fault!" After this day I was so tired, and I left Cherlyn's house. All night I thought about Halloween and the day came when everything could change.

After school I went to Cherlyn. Together with her family I waited until the sun went down and then Cherlyn and I went to the zombie garden. We found the herbs quickly, but suddenly someone was behind us. No, I was wrong. Three zombies stood behind us and they were angry, very angry...

We started to run, but the zombies caught Cherlyn. Cherlyn cried and shouted, "Amy, run with the herbs. You can do it alone!" I didn't want to go alone, but I had to do it. Cherlyn cried and it was awful to see your friend like this. But this time it wasn't possible. So I was on my own. It was like in a horror movie.

The next place was the graveyard. Oh no, I was so scared, but I had to do it. But how do I get zombie tears? Suddenly I had an idea. "Maybe the zombies are sad when another zombie dies." I ran to the graveyard and I saw a zombie who put a black rose on a grave. Oh very friendly! But maybe that's nice for zombies. I was brave when I held her green hands and a glass under her face. I thought, "Yeah, that was simple", but the zombie bit me in my hand. I shouted, because it hurt so much! But I didn't want to give up, so I ran to some other place, but the zombie followed me. But I was faster than her. Lucky me! The next place and also the last place was the spooky house. Mrs. Anotherlifeasazombie said that I had to be careful. I was really excited! I and I only had twenty minutes until midnight.

So I ran to the house, but there were hundreds of zombies in front of it. Some of them had a fight, so there was green blood on the ground. I was so disgusting! I ran to the spooky house and took the zombie blood. But at this moment a zombie held me and I cried, "Please let me go!" But the zombie didn't do that, so I started to fight and suddenly someone knocked him down. It was Cherlyn! We had two more minutes to run to her house. We ran and ran. Then we were there. I mixed the drinks and gave them to Cherlyn and her family in the last second. They drank it and at this moment a wonderful family stood in front of me. Magical!

It was the best feeling to see all the family happy. They said, "Thank you for your help!" Cherlyn said, "I cannot believe that I'm a normal girl now. Thank you so much! Now, I must never be a zombie again. You gave me another life!" I had tears in my eyes, but Cherlyn and her family, too. They gave me a hug and I said, "Now you don't have to go as zombies, even not on Halloween!" Now we both laughed. Since that night we are the best friends in the world forever!