

# **The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch) Study Guide**

**The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch) by Joseph Delaney**

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## Plot Summary

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch is the first book in a series by Joseph Delaney. The novel opens with Tom, the narrator, telling that he is the seventh son of a seventh son. It's hard for his family to find work for him because his family has used up their favors to get his older siblings jobs. Since work is scarce, Tom is going to become a spook. A spook is someone who fights against supernatural threats such as witches, ghosts, and other evil spirits. Spooks are feared by the community because of their dangerous profession. Tom is afraid that he'll live a lonely life, but his mother reassures him, telling him that she married his father and had all of her other sons because she needed Tom to be the seventh son.

Tom and his mother share the ability of being able to communicate with the dead. When Tom meets the current spook, later identified as Gregory, he finds out that Gregory has this ability as well. Gregory explains how hard it is being a spook. The hours are long, and it involves a lot of travel. The long hours and travel are on top of the obvious difficulties associated with fighting malevolent spirits. Gregory takes Tom to the nearby town of Horshaw where he must spend the night alone in a haunted house.

Tom manages to stay the night in the house. Gregory reveals to him that this was his own childhood home. He talks about how in the past there was a couple that lived in the home. The husband got injured and couldn't work, so his wife found a job without telling her husband. The husband believed that she was cheating on him, so he knocked her out and buried her alive in the cellar. Gregory could sense their spirits when he was a child. His father locked him in the cellar because he was tired of hearing him complain. This forced Gregory to face his fears.

With the first trial of spending the night in the house completed, Gregory takes Tom to his present home in Chipenden. He begins to teach Tom about hunting witches and evil spirits. Tom is introduced to the boggart that works inside of Gregory's house and protects the area from any spirits. Gregory shows Tom that he has a witch imprisoned in the garden. The witch's name is Mother Malkin. Witches are very hard to kill, and many of the methods are inhumane. This limits how Gregory is able to deal with witches.

While traveling through the town, Tom meets a young girl named Alice. She helps save him from a group of bullies. Tom recognizes that she has the characteristics of a witch, but he doesn't tell Gregory. He promises to help her in exchange for what she did to help him against the bullies. After a month, Gregory gives Tom the chance to leave. Tom initially accepts, but he changes his mind after talking to his mother.

When Tom returns, Gregory is out hunting a witch. Alice calls in her favor and has Tom deliver three cakes to Mother Malkin on behalf of her mother, another witch named Bony Lizzie. While in town, Tom figures out that there are several missing children from the town. Tom eventually figures that the children were baked into the cakes he was feeding Mother Malkin, which has enhanced her strength. He stops feeding her the cakes, but the damage is done. She is able to escape.



Tom chases her down and manages to kill her, using her weakness to running water. Even though her physical body is destroyed, Tom learns that the spirit of a strong witch can survive and possess someone else. Tom goes after Bony Lizzie knowing she has another child kidnapped. He doesn't find the witch, but he does run into Alice. Alice protests, but Tom ignores her and rescues the child.

Alice later lures Tom into a trap where Bony Lizzie and her son, Tusk, bury him in a pit. They poison him as part of their ritual, but Tom manages to shake off the poison. He manages to convince Alice to save him, seeing the good in her. The two escape but are pursued by the witch. Fortunately, Gregory arrives and imprisons Bony Lizzie. He tells Tom to return home with Alice to see what his mother thinks of her.

Tom returns home where there is tension between him and his family. However, it seems that his mother is beginning to like Alice. Tom soon realizes that the spirit of Mother Malkin is on the farm. He wants to run away, but he changes his mind when he realizes that he is placing his family in danger. Alice convinces him that she's not evil or working with the spirit. The local butcher ends up being the one who is possessed. Tom is able to drive the spirit away using the lessons he learned from Gregory. Gregory returns for him and leaves it up to Tom whether or not they imprison Alice or let her go to her aunt.

Tom wants to imprison her, but he changes his mind believing Alice could be turned to good. His mother and Gregory warn him that there's a growing darkness and Tom will be needed to combat the rising evil. Tom intends to continue his training with Gregory, but he safely delivers Alice to her aunt first. Alice promises that they will meet again, something that Tom doesn't doubt.



# Chapters 1-2

## Summary

### Chapter One

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch (Book One) begins with Tom, the narrator discussing how his father needs to find Tom a job. Tom is the seventh son, so it's a challenge for his father to find him anything because he's used up all his other favors and connections for the rest of his family. An old man known as the Spook comes to recruit Tom. The Spooks are responsible for protecting the land from dangerous creatures. He agrees to take Tom at the first light of the following day. Tom has one last dinner with his family, where his brother teases him for his new occupation. Spooks are feared throughout the rest of the village, so Tom is worried he'll live a lonely life. However, his mother encourages him. She even tells him in private that she married his father and had all his other siblings simply to give birth to him. At the end of the chapter, Tom reveals that he and his mother can hear the dead.

### Chapter Two

Tom's family says their final farewells, with his father promising that he'll always have a spot in the family. He also gives Tom a tinderbox, something that has been passed down in their family. Tom meets the Spook who starts to introduce him to the supernatural elements of the world. He explains the difference between ghosts and ghastrs, revealing that he can also see the dead just like Tom and his mother. He also mentions that he, too, was a seventh son. The Spook pushes Tom hard on his travels. When they rest, he reveals Tom's first test will be to spend the night alone in a haunted house.

## Analysis

### Chapter One

Many small details about the setting are given to the audience in the way that the characters act. Tom's village is shown as being very superstitious. His teacher refuses to teach him because he's left handed. Everyone, except Tom's mother, says grace. At one point, Tom's brother throws salt over his shoulder to ward off bad luck. While Tom's mother doesn't believe in the religious rights, she has her own superstitions she follows, citing how important it is that Tom is the seventh son of the seventh son, something that the Spook had commented on as well. His mother also talks about duty, a recurring theme in the book and something that will frequently come up throughout the rest of the book.

### Chapter Two



Tom receives a tinderbox as a gift from his father. It holds great meaning for him. The tinderbox and the departing words from his father show how much Tom means to the family. This point was not exactly clear at the beginning of the story when his mother seemed to be the only one who was not cold toward him. The Spook explains the stressful nature of the job and has already begun to test Tom by making him carry the spare equipment and limiting how much food he gets. He also begins to teach Tom the importance of duty that his mother had started to instill on him before he left. By making Tom confront the spirits he is also teaching an important lesson about courage and confronting one's fears, something that is vital to anyone who wants to be a successful spook. The important theme of facing one's fears is introduced in this scene in the book.

## **Discussion Question 1**

What are some examples that show that the people in the town are very superstitious?

## **Discussion Question 2**

Why is Gregory so hard on Tom?

## **Discussion Question 3**

How is the theme of facing one's fears introduced in Chapter 2?

## **Vocabulary**

Sprouting, flickered, superstition, vacantly, tinderbox, silhouette, clambered, bewildered, contradict, splattering, breeches, summit, shriveled, wobble.



# Chapters 3-4

## Summary

### Chapter Three

Tom and the Spook arrive in the mining town of Horshaw. The Spook takes Tom down an abandoned street, to the 13th house. Tom laments that this is supposed to be an unlucky number. The Spook gives him strict instructions to stay in the supposedly haunted house until midnight. He's not to let the candle go out, or open the door for anyone that knocks. Something comes up from the cellar, but it doesn't answer Tom. While he's scared at first, he gradually grows more comfortable. He hears someone claiming to be his mother trying to get in, but he knows that it isn't her and ignores the pleas. The candle goes out, but he manages to relight it with the tinderbox his father gave him. When midnight comes around he goes downstairs only to find the Spook waiting for him.

### Chapter Four

The Spook tells Tom that the house they're in belonged to him. When he was younger, he was tormented by the spirit of a man who killed his wife. His father boarded him up in the cellar for always complaining until the Spook was able to face his fears. He also tells Tom he has two brothers, including one who lives in the town. They pass by a priest who scowls at them. The Spook expresses his displeasure at priests, and then adds that was his brother. Tom learns that his mother sent a letter to the Spook, saying that he would be the best and last apprentice that the Spook ever had.

## Analysis

### Chapter Three

The Spook continues to test Tom's courage as well as his ability to follow instructions. Tom manages to fight back his fears during the test, and even shows a great deal of creativity and intelligence. He realizes right away that it isn't his mother outside because his mother was too brave to try and cry and plead for Tom to let her in. When the candle goes out Tom is smart enough to improvise and use his tinderbox to reignite the flame, allowing him to pass the test that the Spook laid out before him. The symbolism of the tinderbox is explored in this chapter as it is the match from the tinderbox that he was given by his father that sparked the light, relit the candle, and kept him safe. Therefore, it was figuratively his father's love and the love of his family that kept him safe. Superstition is once again brought up, once when the Spook passes by someone who makes the sign of the cross, and again when Tom notices that the haunted house is number thirteen.

### Chapter Four



The Spook shows a very different view on family compared to Tom. He views family as nothing more than a nuisance, making it clear to Tom that they had two very different childhoods. So far, Tom has thought fondly on his family, praising his mother for her bravery and owing his current success to his father since he gave Tom the tinderbox. The Spook discusses prophecy with Tom, making it clear that he doesn't believe in it. He explicitly tells Tom that they make their own future, so if his mother's prediction is going to come true, it's only because they make it that way. Tom continues to show how important his family is and how different he is from the Spook. He believes that even though all Spooks are the seventh son of seventh sons, he's special because of who his mother was.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the literal and figurative importance of the tinderbox.

## Discussion Question 2

Compare and contrast Gregory's childhood to Tom's.

## Discussion Question 3

What character trait allows Tom to pass Gregory's test?

## Vocabulary

guttered, prophecy, lank, unkempt, grievance, gleaming, staggered, squelching, pattering, exaggerated, boast, huddled, chimes, rhythmically





# Chapters 5-6

## Summary

### Chapter Five

Tom and the Spook travel to the town of Chipenden where the Spook has a home. He and Tom have a meal cooked by an unseen servant. The Spook gives Tom instructions to come down for breakfast when he hears a bell. Tom hears a bell in his dream and goes down, only to be slapped by some unseen force. Tom is confused, but the Spook seems amused. He takes Tom through the gardens where he shows Tom a grave that has a buried witch. A witch's head is

buried first because their spirits are constantly trying to escape, but it's harder for the spirit to escape if they are buried head first. He tells Tom they have two other witches buried. One is dead, but the other, Mother Malkin is still alive. He also shows Tom a stone marker where a boggart has been bound.

### Chapter Six

The Spook reveals what Tom had suspected, that the cook was actually a boggart. The Spook starts to teach Tom about boggarts and other supernatural threats, saying they aren't all evil spirits. He warns Tom not to trust women, but Tom is not in agreement. He gives Tom a notebook to start keeping track of everything that he teaches. After that, he sends Tom into the village to get supplies. Bullies try to take the supplies, but they're chased away by a girl named Alice, who uses her reputation with Bony Lizzie to scare the boys away. Tom promises to help her in the future just like she helped him; something that he laments at the end of the chapter as one of his biggest mistakes. His second mistake was not telling the Spook about it.

## Analysis

### Chapter Five

The Spook starts to instruct Tom about learning what is real and what isn't. This is important because of how their gifts work. Since they can both sense spirits, they need to be able to distinguish what is just a spirit warping reality and what is actually real and in front of them. Tom starts to consider not only the loneliness of being a Spook, but also the high mortality rate when he sees how many other apprentices have written their name on the wall in his room. Tom is also forced to consider exactly how harsh he'll have to be if he becomes a Spook himself. Tom has a hard time imagining himself ever burying anyone alive, even a witch.

The Spook begins to let his guard down a little and shows Tom a very different side. For once, he seems to be in a good mood. He is starting to treat Tom more like an



apprentice, even though he technically has another month left in his trial. This hints at a deeper relationship growing between the two.

## Chapter Six

The Spook confirms Tom's belief that not all spirits are evil, although he follows this up with the implication that women aren't to be trusted. Tom respects the first part, but he has trouble with the second. He was raised to judge someone based on their actions; so, it doesn't make sense to judge someone simply based on their gender. Furthermore, he trusted his mother and still looks up to her, which highlights one of the main differences between the Spook and Tom. Tom gets to show more of his courage in the face of the bullies. He also gets another hint that from the bullies that the other apprentices haven't had good lives. Tom is introduced to Alice, who heavily foreshadows future events and trouble for Tom.

The Spook, who is now identified as Gregory, also teaches Tom another useful lesson about trusting his instincts. This is a lesson that Gregory has hinted at before and will continue to occasionally bring up as one of the most important parts of being a Spook.

## Discussion Question 1

What might be Gregory's motivation for saying that women aren't to be trusted?

## Discussion Question 2

What gives the reader an idea that Tom is not going to agree always with what Gregory is teaching him?

## Discussion Question 3

Why does Alice introduce regret into Gregory's and Tom's relationship?

## Vocabulary

Vacant, pew, provisions, malevolent, benign, buffeting, stunted, dawdle, dappling, gurgling, stunted, appetizing, nib, boisterous, parcel.



# Chapters 7-8

## Summary

### Chapter Seven

Tom spends the rest of the month learning about boggarts from Gregory. He also learns about using materials like salt and iron to bind boggarts. At the end of the month Gregory gives Tom the choice of going back home. Tom eagerly accepts, which seems to hurt Gregory. He tells Tom he could make a good apprentice, but he only has a week to decide. Tom goes home, but he is dismayed to see that his family isn't as happy to see him as he hoped. His mother makes the decision for him. The decision is that he needs to go back to Gregory and protect the land. Tom returns, but Gregory has left to hunt down a witch. When Tom goes to the village to get supplies, he runs into Alice again. She wants his help. She gives him three cakes to deliver to Mother Malkin, the live witch Gregory has trapped in a pit.

### Chapter Eight

Tom feeds the first and the second cake to the witch. When he's feeding her the second cake, he notices that the bars are bent and realizes that she's gaining strength from the cake. Tom decides he can't give her the third. He goes to tell Alice he can't follow through on his promise. In the village, he hears that two children have gone missing and the men are out searching for her. Tom runs into Alice, who warns him about going so close to her home. She confirms that the cakes were to help Mother Malkin escape and that it was wrong for her to be imprisoned for so long. He also discovers that Bony Lizzie lured Gregory away, setting an ambush for him on the road.

Tom goes to the boggart for help, being led into the library where he can read more about witches. He finds out that Mother Malkin was very powerful because she used blood magic. She had a son named Tusk. Tom suspects that Tusk is the monstrous beast that the villagers have been talking about. Bony Lizzie was Mother Malkin's granddaughter. Tom tries to get help from the village, but everyone is out looking for the missing children.

## Analysis

### Chapter Seven

Tom's courage is tested when he's given the chance to leave Gregory. While he is initially eager to leave, he has his doubts on the trip home. Most of his doubts also seem to stem more from the loneliness as opposed to being afraid of the job. This again highlights a major difference between Tom and Gregory. Tom still cherishes his family and wants to make connections with people. Gregory has displayed some kindness toward the villagers, but always through his apprentices. Tom feels like his relations are



strained with his family, but his mother reassures him that they still care about him. His brother's wife reinforces this fact when she says that his brother was worried because she is pregnant and the animals have been uneasy since Tom left.

Gregory also shows that he has grown attached to Tom, seeming genuinely hurt with how eager Tom is to get the chance to return to his old life. The praise he offers to Tom is genuine. It's clear that Gregory is hopeful Tom will return to the home. He even lays out instructions for when Tom does eventually come back to the town.

## Chapter Eight

Tom's previous foreshadowing catches up to him when he finds out that Alice was just using him to get Mother Malkin free. He does show an honorable side in agreeing to her favor in the first place, even though he's clearly hesitant about breaking the rules set out by Gregory. Part of what encourages him is what his father told him about keeping his promises. While this did end up hurting him in the long run, the second piece of advice worked better. Essentially, his father told him that everyone has a price and will be willing to help if you can offer them something. He uses this to get the Boggart to help him into the library, promising it a day off every Sunday once he becomes Spook.

Tom is forced to grow a great deal in the short amount of time that he's away from Gregory. For the first time, he's tasked with stepping up as the Spook to deal with the threat of Mother Malkin, a formidable witch that Gregory himself initially struggled to contain thirteen years ago. Tom was quick to own up to his mistake, showing the courage to try and correct his mistake. Also, he is honest with himself and recognizes that he did wrong. His cunning was on display as well when he managed to sort through all of Gregory's information to come up with a solution of getting help from the boggart. The number thirteen makes another appearance. It is mentioned in the bars, but it is also the number of years since Gregory dealt with Mother Malkin.

The danger of being a Spook is presented once more when Tom finds the list of all the previous apprentices, noting that nine of them are dead. Tom hints that he's suspicious about Alice's involvement in the last apprentice dying, since she knew about it when they first met.

## Discussion Question 1

Discuss the character of Alice.

## Discussion Question 2

Why does Tom solve all of the problems on his own instead of finding and telling Gregory?



## Discussion Question 3

How does Tom show responsibility in Chapter 8?

## Vocabulary

Oblong, cairn, yonder, botany, scowling, uneasy, content, artificially, gleaming, rustling, dawned, accused.



# Chapters 9-10

## Summary

### Chapter Nine

Tom knows he's the only one who can contain Mother Malkin. At midnight he checks on her cage and finds she has escaped. He arms himself with one of Gregory's staves, chasing after her. He knows malevolent witches aren't able to cross running water, so she will take a certain route to get to Bony Lizzie's cabin. Tom battles the witch and manages to get her into the running water. She tries to pull herself out by grappling with Tom, but he drives her back into the water where she eventually dies.

### Chapter Ten

Tom knows that there is still a child missing, so he goes to confront Lizzie. He finds Alice instead, who tells him that Lizzie is waiting for Mother Malkin. He rescues the child, Tommy, and takes him back to Gregory's house. Lizzie and Tusk pursue him. When he gets to the garden, the boggart protects him, keeping Lizzie and Tusk from entering. Tom returns the child to the village, where they are preparing to go after Lizzie. Tom returns home and finds that Gregory has also returned, injured but still alive. Tom tells Gregory everything that happened. Gregory is impressed and forgives Tom for what he did.

Gregory tells Tom that a witch as powerful as Mother Malkin could return to life, as her spirit would still be alive. She could possess someone or be reborn into a new body, so Tom is always in danger. He gives Tom a book about possession, deciding he'll need it more. He also tells Tom about his last apprentice who died because he cut corners while trying to bind a boggart. He failed to trap the creature. It murdered him. Gregory wants to rest and go after Lizzie. He thinks that she is capable of detecting an ambush from the other villagers; so, she will be able to escape.

## Analysis

### Chapter Nine

Tom is faced with a serious moral dilemma when he goes after Mother Malkin. He feels that it's wrong to kill her. At the same time, he doesn't know what else to do because he doesn't have a silver chain to bind her. Tom shows another moral side by feeling guilty over the death of the missing children as well; having suspected that at least one child had been sacrificed to infuse the cakes with the magic needed to strengthen Mother Malkin. Tom continues to show his courage by fighting against the witch, even knowing how strong and dangerous she is.

### Chapter Ten



Gregory shows a surprising amount of kindness toward Tom after he returns. While he hadn't exactly been cruel to him before, this was the first time where he really treated Tom like an equal. Gregory does speak a little affectionately about his former apprentice, but it's clear that he favors Tom more. Their relationship is starting to shift, becoming more familial as opposed to student and master. Gregory gives Tom the book of possession with instructions to fill in the last few pages with any new information he learns. This is a big deal because it not only shows that he's confident Tom will be able to survive if Mother Malkin comes after him, but also that he's confident enough that Tom is going to learn as a Spook and come up with new information.

Despite still being an apprentice, Tom has taken his first steps into becoming a true hero and an eventual Spook. He rushed off to save Tommy without considering his safety, and even when Lizzie and Tusk were pursuing him he managed to push his body to the limit to keep the child safe. Tom discovers that Gregory actually shares his views on murder, and not even he wants to see the witches killed if it can be avoided. Gregory even acknowledges that imprisoning them is still cruel, but he doesn't have an alternative that doesn't leave everyone else in danger. This again touches upon the theme of duty presented throughout the book.

## **Discussion Question 1**

Discuss how the theme of duty is presented in Chapter 10.

## **Discussion Question 2**

What is the moral dilemma that Tom faces in Chapter 9?

## **Discussion Question 3**

What does Tom learn about Gregory as a result of his experience with Mother Malkin?

## **Vocabulary**

Bile, surging, reassurance, pattering, hem, forlorn, glistening, tussock, eased, slither.



# Chapters 11-12

## Summary

### Chapter Eleven

Tom runs into Alice a few days later near the village. She apologizes for being too weak to have done what was right. Tom is confused, but he finds out what she means when Lizzie and Tusk ambush him. They drag him away and prepare a bite for him. Lizzie feeds him a potion that makes him hallucinate. She warns him that Gregory's last apprentice, Billy, is going to come after him as she tossed his bones inside the pit. Billy does show up, but his appearance reminds Tom about the difference between reality and dreaming. Tom realizes it was just the potion making him see things. Alice returns, and Tom convinces her to help him. With her help, the two manage to escape, but Lizzie and Tusk chase after them. Before they can descend on the pair, Gregory shows up, killing Tusk and imprisoning Lizzie with a silver chain. He decides to spare Alice, instructing Tom to take her back to his house to see his mother.

### Chapter Twelve

Tom takes Alice to see his mother and the rest of his family. His parents are happy to see him, but his brother, Jack, is unusually angry at Tom. Alice gets along well enough with Tom's mother, and she puts her to work on the farm. Jack blames Tom for bringing Alice there since his wife Ellie had just given birth to their daughter. Tom is worried that their daughter might be possessed as she was born hours after Mother Malkin was killed. His mother convinces Tom that isn't the case. After Tom's mother leaves for work, Tom gets Alice to read the book he has on possession. He wants to learn more. Later that night, he sees Alice communicating with Malkin, but he isn't sure if it was willingly or if she was possessed. He breaks the mirror she was using, but he knows that Malkin's spirit is still in the house. He has no idea if anyone in the house can be trusted, so he decides to run away.

## Analysis

### Chapter Eleven

Alice's good nature finally shines through. In their past meetings, Tom has always believed in her. He finally convinces her to abandon the evil side of her family. Even Gregory is willing to spare her when he realizes that she was just acting out of fear and didn't seem to want to cause anyone harm. Gregory shows off his true power as a Spook, wielding both his staff and the chain expertly to dispatch Lizzie and Tusk. Tom comments on how he seems like a man thirty years younger as he's leaving. When Tom explains everything that happened with Billy, Gregory seems genuinely relieved that Billy is at peace, again showing his softer side.





One of the main reasons that Gregory wants to spare Alice is because of Tom. This shows the growing respect that he has for Tom. Also, it cements the fact that Gregory is starting to accept Tom as a true Spook and not just as a mere apprentice.

## Chapter Twelve

Tom continues to foreshadow that he can't trust Alice; however, he doesn't make it clear if it is because of her communicating with Malkin or if it's something that she hasn't done yet. Things between Tom and Jack are very tense, which seems to be a direct result of Tom becoming a Spook. His parents are still kind and loving toward Tom, which is one of the connections that makes him stronger. It's also one of the big differences between him and Gregory.

Tom begins to be paranoid during this chapter. It starts with thinking that Ellie's baby is possessed, but as his mother points out that would be a poor choice for Malkin since she'd have to wait for the child to grow up. After that, he suspects that Alice had lied to him about what was in the book. Since he doesn't know Latin he can't read it for himself to determine what happened. By the end of the night, Tom is too paranoid to sleep. He snaps and decides to just run away from his home.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Gregory change his mind about Alice?

## Discussion Question 2

Why is Jack upset about Tom bringing Alice to the farm?

## Discussion Question 3

What series of events come together to make Tom believe that he should run away from his home?

## Vocabulary

Scolded, midden, placid, stile, lurched, loamy, beckoned, vile, cascading, furrowing, exorcism, waning.



# Chapter 13

## Summary

### Chapter Thirteen

Alice catches up to Tom before he can run away from the farm. She convinces him that she wasn't working with Mother Malkin. She had been searching for her when the witch tried to possess her, but Tom was able to interrupt it. She warns him that the rest of his family will be in danger and he will not be able to get to Gregory in time. Tom returns to the farm, determined to save his family. Mr. Snout, the local butcher, comes by to harvest some of the pigs. He ends up attacking Jack, revealing that he was the one who was possessed. Alice and Tom work together to banish the spirit of Mother Malkin. Alice tries to burn her to death, but Tom stops her. A weakened Mother Malkin crawls into the pig pen where she is devoured.

## Analysis

### Chapter Thirteen

Tom finally accepts his duty as a spook. He confidently uses everything that he's learned to try and protect his family. Part of this acceptance also means acknowledging that people are going to be afraid of him. Up until now, whenever villages turned away from them he thought it was because he was traveling with Gregory, but the truth is people were just as afraid of him as they were Gregory. Tom continues to show his morals by keeping Alice from killing Mother Malkin, knowing that she shouldn't have to live with that on her conscience. Even after everything that has happened, he is unwilling to compromise. Tom's ingenuity and cleverness once again come through as he is able to use his previous training to gather iron and salt to banish Mother Malkin from Mr. Snout.

## Discussion Question 1

How does Tom show his maturity when they cast Mother Malkin out of the butcher?

## Discussion Question 2

Why are people uncomfortable around Spooks?

## Discussion Question 3

How does Tom's ingenuity show through in Chapter 13?

## Vocabulary

Wobbly, mockery, cackle, compulsion, protruding, baleful, berserk, threshold, brand.



# Chapter 14

## Summary

Chapter Fourteen

Gregory comes down to the farm, having sensed something was wrong. He talks to Tom's mom about what happened. Tom is given the choice of either imprisoning Alice or bringing her safely to her aunt. Tom's mother tells him that there's a darkness growing and Tom needs to stand against it. Alice could end up being his greatest ally or nothing more than a threat. Tom struggles with the decision. When he realizes that Alice had been used all her life by Lizzie, he decides to spare her. Tom brings her to her aunt's house, but Alice tells him that they will meet again, something that Tom doesn't doubt.

## Analysis

Chapter Fourteen

Family continues to be important to Tom, even though he's accepted his role as a spook. Things aren't the same though. Ellie tells Tom that he might be welcome on the farm, but it's too dangerous for him to show up after dark because he might bring danger with him again. Tom is hurt, but he understands that they are just trying to protect their child. Even Jack's hostile behavior is just his way of trying to cope with how worried and afraid he is for Tom.

Gregory continues to see Tom as an equal, letting him be the one to decide what happens to Alice. He also shows a tremendous deal of respect to his mother, something is out of character for Gregory who typically doesn't think much of women. As the book comes to a close, Tom starts to document his own notes from what he is learning from Alice. His writing cements his status as a spook.

## Discussion Question 1

Why does Tom decide to spare Alice?

## Discussion Question 2

How is the theme of family relevant to Chapter 14?

## Discussion Question 3

How has Gregory changed as a result of having met Tom?

## Vocabulary

Enlighten, abide, initiative, conjuring, heaving, surging, rapped.



# Characters

## Tom Ward

Tom is the main character of the book. He's thirteen years old and the seventh son of a seventh son, making him a perfect applicant for a career as a spook. Tom starts off very bored with life on the farm and wanting to do more with his life. He fears that being a spook will be a lonely life. Unlike Gregory, he seems to value his connections with humanity. Tom is intelligent and clever even at the start of the book, seeing through the initial trial set by Gregory when he's considering him for an apprentice. Tom initially lacks courage, but over time he becomes very brave, even standing up to powerful witches like Mother Malkin.

Tom is a very merciful character, feeling bad for the imprisoned spirits. He stops Alice from killing Mother Malkin because he doesn't want her to have to live with that burden, even after Mother Malkin tried to kill him and his family. Tom tries to give extra supplies to the villagers whenever he can, but only the ones that look like they actually need it, not the strong ones that just try and bully the supplies from Tom.

Even though he's hesitant about becoming a spook, Tom takes his job very seriously. He throws himself into his work, taking notes and performing physical tasks that are far above him. By the end of the book, Tom has become more hardened and determined to be a spook, but he hasn't lost his empathy.

## Tom's Father

Tom's father is an older, hardworking man who is shown to care about all of his family, although most of his interactions are just with Tom. He makes it very clear that he's proud of Tom and he'll always be welcome back at home.

## Tom's Mother

Tom's mother is a well-respected and intelligent woman. She's frequently called in by the villagers to act as a healer or a midwife. Unlike most of the other characters, she doesn't believe in superstitions. Like Tom, she has the ability to communicate with spirits. Unlike Tom or even Gregory, she seems to have greater control over this power and was capable of banishing ghosts. She believes that Tom is capable of great things and will prove instrumental in fighting the darkness. She's very supportive of him, but she also knows when she needs to push him into accepting his duty.



## Jack Ward

Jack is Tom's older brother who works on the farm. He is married to Ellie. They have one child. At first, Jack is supportive of Tom. Then, when he returns home after being a spook, he's aggressive toward Tom. Ellie eventually reveals that Jack does still care about Tom, but he's just afraid of the darkness that he brings home with him.

## Ellie

Ellie is Jack's wife and very supportive of her new family. She is especially close to Tom at the start, but when he leaves to become a spook their relationship grows distant. At the end of the book, Ellie tells Tom that he's welcome at the house, but only during the day because it's just too risky to expose the family to the dark supernatural elements he has to deal with.

## Gregory

Gregory is the current spook and Tom's instructor. Gregory is a very gruff man, but as time goes on he warms up to Tom. By the end of the book, he's treating Tom like an equal. Gregory might not have many connections, but it's clear that he cares about keeping the villagers safe, even if they are terrified of him. He does have a merciful side as he doesn't like to use some of the harsher methods in dealing with witches. Gregory had a very difficult childhood with an abusive father. He has two living brothers, but he doesn't interact with them or even speak very fondly of them.

## Alice

Alice is a young witch that befriends Tom when he's being bullied. Alice was abused by her family and forced into helping with their dark magic, even though she had no interest in it. Her good spirit eventually shines through when she saves Tom near the end of the book and helps him to escape from her family. Tom's mother notes that Alice has the potential to become a source of either good or darkness. Alice herself is a very clever and strong character. She takes an instant liking to Tom and promises that they will meet again.

## Mother Malkin

Mother Malkin is a powerful witch that is imprisoned in Gregory's garden. Her family tricks Tom into giving her enough power to free herself. Tom manages to defeat her, but her spirit is free to possess someone else. Mother Malkin uses blood magic, which is a dark and powerful kind of magic. She's shown to be incredibly cruel and seems to favor younger victims, especially for eating. She's finally killed at the end of the book when her heart is devoured by pigs.



## Bony Lizzie

Bony Lizzie is a witch who specializes in bone magic, hence her name. She is the granddaughter of Mother Malkin and the mother of Alice. She only appears briefly throughout the book. When she tries to kill Tom she ends up getting imprisoned by Gregory. Lizzie was abusive toward Alice and always forced her to participate in their rituals, whether she wanted to or not.

## Billy

Billy is the previous apprentice to Gregory. At the start of the novel he's already dead, but he's mentioned several times throughout the story. Tom eventually finds out from Gregory that Billy was killed because he tried to cut corners on the job. He failed to properly imprison a boggart. It broke free and killed him. Tom encounters the spirit of Billy later on and notes that despite his gruesome end he seems at peace.





# Symbols and Symbolism

## Tinderbox

The tinderbox is one of the first items that Tom receives. His father gives it to him when he's leaving the farm. The tinderbox is important because it has been passed down from generation to generation and it is a symbolic reminder of his family's love. Jack is initially angry that his brother Tom accepted the tinderbox because he's jealous of how proud his family is of Tom. Tom uses the tinderbox to stay connected to his family as it acts as a direct reminder of how much both his parents care about him. When he feels lost and alone in the haunted house, he uses the tinderbox to reignite the flame. This represents Tom drawing on the strength and motivation from his family, something that he does frequently throughout the book.

## Spook Books

Throughout the course of the story Gregory is constantly having Tom read different books. He doesn't actually let Tom keep any of the books though. When Gregory is gone from the house, he doesn't allow Tom in the library. After Tom proves himself by destroying Mother Malkin, Gregory gives him a book to keep about possession. This signifies that he has truly accepted Tom as a spook. Not only that, but Gregory also leaves blank spaces for Tom to fill in what he learns. This is another sign of trust that Tom knows what he's doing as a spook.

## The Number Thirteen

Throughout the book many superstitions are brought up. One of the most frequent is the number thirteen being unlucky. When Tom first encounters the number thirteen, it is the number of the haunted house. He finds out that this is where a murder took place and also the home where Gregory was abused by his father. Thirteen comes up again when Tom finds Mother Malkin's prison. Mother Malkin herself represents the malevolence behind this number as well, since it was thirteen years since she was imprisoned before she eventually breaks out. Any time the number thirteen shows up it spells trouble for Tom. However, each time he does overcome the challenge.

## Wolves

Wolves are unique in *Revenge of the Witch* because they don't actually show up in the book. They are frequently mentioned by Tom. Several times when Tom is afraid he makes comparisons to wolves. He does this when he first meets Gregory. At this point, he's still afraid about becoming a spook because of how lonely and tough of a life it is, not to mention he doesn't really know Gregory at this point. When the children start to go missing, Tom and the other villagers initially suspect that wolves were the culprits,



though none have been seen in the region. When the bullies confront Tom, he compares their visage to that of a wolf. Wolves are a direct representation of fear for Tom, even if they don't appear physically.

## Breech Birth

A breech birth is when a child is born the wrong way, feet first instead of head. This is something that Tom's mother has become famous for treating. Mother Malkin is initially buried this way when she's imprisoned by Gregory, representing her evil nature. Gregory has Tom bring Alice to his mother, where she essentially helps to fix Alice. Gregory knows that Tom's mother has a talent for bringing out the best in people. In her own way, she was able to twist Alice around and put her on a correct path.

## Left Handed

Both Tom and Gregory are left handed characters. This is something that the rest of the villagers are superstitious about, believing it to be a sign of bad luck. Tom initially notices that Gregory is left handed, too. This trait ultimately ends up being very important to Tom as it helps put him on the path of becoming a spook. When Tom has to fight Mother Malkin, he uses the left handed staff to defeat the witch. Tom's mother mentions that he was born to be a spook, with the left handedness just being another example of how it fits into his destiny. If he were not the rare left handed child, he likely would have failed as a spook when fighting Mother Malkin.

## Moonlight

As Tom starts to become a spook, he learns how to read the moon. The moonlight eventually becomes a warning to him whenever there is danger nearby. Tom uses the moonlight to track down Mother Malkin. The first time is when she was trying to run back to Bony Lizzie. He was able to cut her off by following the moonlight. The moonlight reveals danger again when Mother Malkin's spirit infiltrates his farm looking for a body to possess.

## Pits

Pits are frequently used whenever a character is trapped and helpless. Pits first come up when Gregory is telling Tom about the haunted house. The paranoid husband digs a pit while his injured wife is just forced to watch. Pits come up several times when Gregory is giving Tom a tour through the garden. A pit also represents where Mother Malkin is trapped. Lastly, Tom is placed in a pit at the end of the book when he's poisoned and prepared to be sacrificed by Bony Lizzie.



## Alice's Scars

Alice shows her scar to Tom near the end of the book. To him, they aren't just physical injuries. They represent the fact that Alice had been manipulated into helping her family. She never chose to willingly shed her blood for them, but they made her participate in their rituals and use her blood to power their spells. When Tom sees the scars, he realizes that she was just an innocent and decides to spare her imprisonment.

## Tom's Grandmother's Mirror

Next to the tinderbox, the mirror is the last family artifact that Tom's father owns. Tom is ultimately forced to break the mirror when Mother Malkin's spirit shows up looking for someone to possess. Breaking the mirror is an act that greatly angers Jack. Overall, it represents the fact that Tom's relationship with his family has been shattered and damaged. He's still part of the family, but their connection has been broken and isn't quite the same as he must become a spook. Shortly after breaking the mirror, Ellie reveals that he isn't welcome at night anymore because it's too dangerous.



# Settings

## The County

The county refers to the general world that the characters inhabit. Much of the county is unexplored during the course of the book. It's clear that this is a fantastical world with supernatural threats.

## Tom's Farmhouse

Tom starts the book at his farmhouse, located right near the town of Horshaw. It has been in his family for some time and will soon be inherited by his older brother, Jack. Tom returns to the farmhouse several times when he needs to rest or to figure out something significant in his life. The farmhouse starts to feel less like home by the end of the book, and he's only allowed back during the day because of the danger that his job could bring to the family.

## Hangman's Hill

Hangman's Hill is located right near Tom's farm. He has to pass through it on his way to Horshaw. At a young age, Tom was bothered by the spirits that inhabited Hangman's Hill. There are hundreds of spirits of soldiers that had been executed during a previous war. Tom's mother eventually silences the spirits, something that seems to be above even Gregory's skills.

## Horshaw

Horshaw is a small village where Gregory was first born. Tom only passes by there briefly when he is forced to stay in Gregory's old house, which is haunted. It is his first trial that he needs to overcome before he can become Gregory's apprentice.

## Chipenden

Chipenden is another village where Gregory currently lives. His home and his garden is where Tom learns about being a spook. The village is also where Tom meets Alice and where Tom battles Mother Malkin. The majority of the action takes place in or around Chipenden.



## **Pendle**

Pendle is mentioned several times throughout the book. Gregory is lured out to Pendle later in the book because it is a town full of witches. He never makes it though as he is ambushed on the road. Even though the characters never go there, it's mentioned several times and is considered to be a dangerous place.

## **Staumin**

Staumin is a village located on the coast. Tom only goes to Staumin at the very end of the book as it is where Alice's aunt lives.



# Themes and Motifs

## Duty

Duty is a motif throughout the book. Tom and his father are the first ones to hint at duty when they're discussing jobs. In the world, nothing is more important than finding work for your sons. Jobs and apprenticeships are almost used like a currency. Tom's father has used up all of his favors when finding jobs for the rest of his family. Since Tom is a seventh son, it's harder to find work for him, which is why he has to become a spook. This isn't something that Tom or his family dismisses though. In fact, the sense of duty is greater for a spook because of the job's importance.

Tom's mother is one of the characters that talks about duty the most. Like Gregory, she believes that spooks have a responsibility to drive back the darkness and keep the land safe from undead spirits and other threats. Gregory helps to instill these lessons into Tom, saying that even though they are feared by most people, spooks still have a responsibility to perform their job.

Tom is quick to pick up on these lessons. When he's given the chance to return to his home, it's his sense of duty that ultimately brings him back to Gregory. When Gregory is gone and Mother Malkin gets free, Tom's sense of duty spurs him to act and stop the witch. His sense of duty is also what encourages him to go and rescue Tommy, the missing child.

It isn't just the spooks that take their job and duty seriously. Tom's father and his brother Jack care about their jobs and farm duties. The same can be said for the other workers that Tom experiences throughout the story as well. The soldiers at Hangman's Hill are another grim example of what it means to be dutiful.

## The Dangers of Isolation

Being a Spook is very lonely work. That thought frightens Tom. When he meets Gregory, it seems like he's completely disconnected and alone in the world. Gregory rarely interacts with any characters, having his apprentice do all of his shopping and anything else that would require him to interact with the villagers. It's still clear that Gregory cares about the villagers, even if he doesn't have a close connection to them.

Initially, Tom is very effective as a spook because he hasn't isolated himself. He still has connections with his family and his friends, Alice and Gregory. His connections drive Tom to act against the darker forces that he faces and ultimately helps give him the strength and determination he needs to succeed.

The majority of the darker characters are always shown to be acting alone or forcing others to work with them. Lizzie abused Alice, and Tusk was shown as being a brainless monstrosity. The reason that these evil characters keep failing is because they are



alone and don't have other people on which to rely. They tend to fight for selfish reasons as well; so, they aren't as motivated as Tom, or even Gregory.

## Overcoming Fear

Tom finds himself constantly facing fear. Just meeting Gregory intimidates him. Then, becoming a spook terrifies him. Tom knows how dangerous and lonely the life of a spook can be. Things are made worse when his mother seems to believe that Tom has a great destiny to fulfill. Tom must face more traditional fears as well, such as standing up to witches and confronting evil spirits.

Fear is also faced by Gregory who confronted the spirits that were plaguing him as a youth, as well as his abusive family. By learning how to confront his own fears, Gregory is able to teach Tom a very important lesson. He teaches Tom that to control fear Tom must know what is real and what isn't. In many situations, Tom is just making himself afraid, such as imagining what spirits might be lurking in the cellar of the haunted house when it's just Gregory.

Alice is another example of Tom overcoming his fears. He had first convinced himself that she was an evil witch that was trying to trick him, but he saw through his fears and recognized that she was just a victim. If he had let his fears of Alice get the better of him, he likely would have been killed by Mother Malkin, or ended up leaving his family at her mercy. With the help of Alice, he finds out that Mother Malkin is in the house looking for someone to possess. Alice helps him to defeat the witch.

## The Influence of Family

Family is a common, positive theme in most young adult books. To an extent, that holds true for *The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch*. Tom is definitely shaped by his family in a good way. He takes on the courageous traits of his mother, as well as her intelligence. Without her guidance, he would not have considered becoming a spook in the first place. The support of his father is important as well, especially when he gives Tom his prized tinderbox.

Many of the other main characters come from difficult, abusive childhoods. For example, when a young Gregory started to see spirits, his father locked him in the basement. Ironically, instead of becoming more afraid, Gregory confronted his fear. On the other hand, Bony Lizzie was the granddaughter of a witch named Mother Malkin. Her grandmother's influence was far from positive, and Bony Lizzie never rose above the evil.

Bony Lizzie's daughter, Alice, is another example of a character being shaped by their family, but not in a good way. Like Gregory, she suffers from abuse. Bony Lizzie uses Alice's blood as a component for her spells. She forces Alice to help kidnap Tom, even though she knows that Alice genuinely likes him. Fortunately, Tom and his mother recognize Alice as a good person. Alice's saving grace is that she leaves her family



(Bony Lizzie and Mother Malkin). Otherwise, Alice would have probably followed their footsteps in becoming an evil witch.

## Gender Equality

Gregory is a jaded character because of his difficult childhood and his time as a spook. With women in particular he's incredibly cynical because the few women that he does deal with are witches. He warns Tom early on that women aren't to be trusted.

Fortunately for Tom, he doesn't take this lesson to heart. In Tom's eyes, his mother is one of the strongest people that he knows. His mother is also capable of dealing with spirits in a way that Gregory seems unable to comprehend.

Tom is generally respectful of the opposite gender, but even he has moments where he undermines them. When he first meets Alice, he's initially surprised that she's physically stronger than he is simply based on the fact that she is a girl. When he's worried about Mother Malkin possessing someone, he immediately assumes that Ellie is at risk because of her gender.

Alice is quick to point out when he's wrong. To his credit, Tom is quick to accept how strong women can be. Even Gregory shows a bit more respect toward Tom's mom at the end of the book. This might be the result of how highly Tom spoke of her.





# Styles

## Point of View

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch(Book One) is told from the first person perspective of Tom Ward, the main character. While he's narrating to the audience, the actual character of Tom is writing everything that we see down in his journal. Tom mentions that he's writing from memory, but he never comes off as an unreliable narrator. Since the book is written from Tom's point of view, the audience only gets to see what he is thinking and experiencing. Tom is only thirteen at the start of the book. He is very inexperienced in the ways of the world, which is certainly reflected through his eyes.

## Language and Meaning

Tom will occasionally use strange sounding words, but the vocabulary happens to fit the setting. Fortunately for the audience, Tom will usually follow this up with some sort of description. That way if the audience is unfamiliar with something like a ghaist or a boggart, Tom will inform them exactly what he's talking about, even though it's something that is well known in the world. Most of the characters tend to have the same dialect, except for Alice. Because of her isolated nature, she speaks in a much more casual and relaxed fashion. Tom and the others speak in a more educated fashion as a result of their upbringing.

Given the nature of his work, a lot of Tom's descriptions can become rather grim and dark. This is fitting with the fact that he's writing everything down as though it were a journal. In his own way, he's creating books like the ones that Gregory wrote; so, he must focus on the darker aspects of being a spook.

## Structure

Since Tom isn't writing in the present, he is able to do a lot of foreshadowing. This is especially apparent with Alice, as he hints several times that Alice is going to bring him trouble days before it actually ends up happening. The narrative is mostly told in a straight forward fashion; however, Tom does use the occasional time skip. The most noticeable use is during his first month of training. He goes into detail about the first day. Afterward, he summarizes his lessons for the next month, until it comes time for him to decide whether or not he should return home.



## Quotes

I married your dad because he was a seventh son. And I bore him six sons so that I could have you. Seven times seven, you are, and you have the gift.

-- Tom's Mother (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 15)

**Importance:** Tom's mother is always talking about duty and how important it is that Tom is the seventh son of a seventh son. His birth order means he's eligible to be a spook. This quote shows not only the expectations she has for Tom, but also her own sense of duty since she put forth so much effort just to make sure he was born.

Who'll look after the ordinary folk? Who'll keep them from harm? Who'll make the farms, villages, and towns safe so that women and children can walk the streets and lanes free from fear?

-- Tom's Mother (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 15)

**Importance:** At first the job of a spook was rather ambiguous, but Tom's mother makes the job's importance quite clear. It also serves as another reminder about the duties of a spook and how they're responsible for keeping the villages safe.

You see, from there I could hear them. I could hear the ropes creaking and the branches groaning under their weight. I could hear the dead, strangling and choking on the other side of the hill.

-- Tom (Chapter 1 paragraph Page 19)

**Importance:** This is the first time that Tom talks about his ability to see the spirits. It is something that will come up many times throughout the rest of the book. This ability is part of what makes him equipped to become a spook in the first place.

Just because you've left home, it doesn't mean that you can't come back and visit.

-- Tom (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 23)

**Importance:** Tom's connection with his family is what makes him different from Gregory. His father makes it very clear early on that even though Tom is leaving, he will still be a part of the family. They aren't just trying to force him off the farm. They understand he has a greater purpose in the world.

If we're afraid, sometimes there are things that can feed on that fear. Fear makes it worse for us. The trick is to concentrate on what you can see and stop thinking about yourself. It works every time.

-- Tom (Chapter 2 paragraph Page 27)

**Importance:** Overcoming fear is a major part of *Revenge of the Witch*. One of the first lessons that Tom must master is controlling his fear. He reflects on these exact words later on when he's been captured by Bony Lizzie, allowing him to break through the hallucinations that her poison caused.



Above all, we don't believe in prophecy. We don't believe that the future is fixed. So if what your mother wrote comes true, then it's because we make it come true.

-- Gregory (Chapter 4 paragraph Page 62)

**Importance:** Gregory is a firm believer that men are responsible for making their own fate. This is important because it ultimately helps Tom spare Alice, since he recognizes that her fate is not necessarily to become an evil witch like the rest of her family.

That's one of the first and most important lessons that an apprentice has to learn," he said; "the difference between waking and dreaming. Some never learn that.

-- Gregory (Chapter 5 paragraph Page 82)

**Importance:** Similar to mastering fear, a spook needs to learn what is real and what isn't. There are many spirits that are capable of altering reality, something that both Tom and Gregory were forced to face and overcome when they were children.

And an unaware witch means a witch who doesn't know she's a witch, and because she's a woman, that makes her double trouble. Never trust a woman.

-- Gregory (Chapter 6 paragraph Page 99)

**Importance:** Gregory is a very cynical and jaded character, especially when it comes to women. His views are ultimately proved wrong by Tom though. Tom argues not only for the strength of his mother, but also for Alice at the end of the book. Despite what Gregory says, he's able to put his trust in Tom when he decides to let Alice go.

I knew my mam wouldn't be happy with what the Spook had just said. She believed you should take people as you find them, not just depend on someone else's opinion.

-- Tom (Chapter 6 paragraph Page 99)

**Importance:** Tom is never quick to jump to judgment about someone and always tries to see the good in people. This is important as a spook needs to learn that appearances can be deceiving. This mindset also makes it so Tom is able to see the good in Alice, which ultimately ends up saving his life several times over.

He always shook hands when greeting my other brothers who'd left home, but this was the first time for me. It made me feel sad and proud at the same time. He was treating me as if I were a man, making my own way in the world.

-- Tom (Chapter 12 paragraph Page 255)

**Importance:** Despite being gone for only a little more than a month, Tom is forced to grow a lot as a character. When he returns home, he realizes that he's no longer a child and that he must fully embrace his new life as a spook.

Her baby had been born after midnight on the night of the full moon. It was too close to be just a coincidence. Mother Malkin would have been swept away by the river about the time that Ellie's baby had been born. The Spook had warned me that she'd come back. What if she'd come back even earlier than he'd predicted?



-- Tom (Chapter 12 paragraph Page 260)

**Importance:** Toward the end of the book, Tom lets his fears get the better of him. He becomes increasingly paranoid about Mother Malkin, mistakenly believing that just about anyone in the house is possessed by her. Fortunately for Tom, he has Alice to bring him back to reality before he ends up going after the wrong person.

And in that moment I knew that I was born to be a spook. The very best spook who'd ever lived. I could and would make Mam proud of me. You see, rather than being filled with fear, I was all ice and fire. Deep inside I was raging, full of hot anger that was threatening to explode. While on the outside I was as cold as ice, my mind sharp and clear, my breathing slow.

-- Tom (Chapter 13 paragraph Page 309)

**Importance:** By the end of the book, Tom has come to fully embrace his role as a spook. He's learned to conquer his fears, not only of the supernatural, but also of living a lonely lifestyle. Thanks to Gregory and his mother, he knows that he has a responsibility to keep the world safe. Not only that, but he understands that he has the power to go up against even the darkest and scariest of creatures.