

THE SCHOLAR'S CLUB

Written by

Joshua Martin

Address  
Phone Number

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

SYLVIE, 16, waits on a bench outside classroom with ASHLEY, 16, and PAUL, 14.

A STUDENT, 16, exits the classroom smiling. She carries papers and a folded laptop.

STUDENT

Well that was easy.

Sylvie stares at an open laptop on her lap. She bites her nails, then a wide smile covers her face and nods her head. Ashley peeks over Sylvie's shoulder, looking at the screen.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER (O.S.)

Next!

Ashley taps Sylvie's shoulder and gives her a thumbs up.

ASHLEY

You got this.

Paul looks at Sylvie smiling ear to ear, giving two thumbs up.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER, early 40s, and MS. PETERS, mid 20s, sit side by side in students desks facing the whiteboard. A blank table stands before them. Sylvie enters, laptop closed in her hands.

SYLVIE

Hey hey, Ms. Peters.

Sylvie snaps her finger and points at Principal Schindler.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

Chief.

MS. PETERS

Oh hello, Sylvie.

Principal Schindler scrunches his face.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER

Sylvie.

Principal Schindler leans in.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER (CONT'D)  
 (whispers)  
 Didn't she bring a human skull to  
 your class's show and tell?

Ms. Peters leans in.

MS. PETERS  
 (whispers)  
 It was only a prop...

Ms. Peters faces forward, straight-faced and arches an  
 eyebrow.

MS. PETERS (CONT'D)  
 (whispers)  
 ...I think.

Sylvie sits down her laptop on the table. She opens it up,  
 facing her, and loads up her slideshow. Principal Schindler  
 clears his throat.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
 So, Ms. Meredith. What kind of idea  
 do you have for the Club-a-thon?

SYLVIE  
 Something that means a lot to me.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
 Is it osteology?

SYLVIE  
 No.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
 Arts and crafts?

SYLVIE  
 No.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
 Any-may?

Sylvie snickers.

MS. PETERS  
 I believe it's pronounced 'anime.'

SYLVIE  
 No, yes, but no.

Sylvie turns her laptop around facing the them. A slide  
 titled "The Wiccan Club" appears on screen.

The photo shows a rustic aesthetic of witchy ingredients like jarred bones, feathers, and colorful minerals. Pentagram and sigil graphics decorate the words.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER

Syl--

Sylvie switches the slide. A picture shows a group of young witches.

SYLVIE

I know a handful of classmates who  
are Wiccan or are fascinated by the  
occult.

Next slide: A picture shows other teens looking scornfully at a Wiccan or gothic person.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

Most people don't understand us,  
but we get each other.

Next slide: titled "A New Community". It shows teens reading leather-bound books and practicing magic together.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

The Wiccan Club would be a haven  
for us.

Principal Schindler crosses his arms.

Next slide: Graphics of seances, voodoo dolls, and potion-making.

Principal Schindler looks pale and Ms. Peters' eyes are wide and a smile creeps on her mouth.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

In The Wiccan Club, we'd only do  
good-energy rituals. Productively,  
it'd be a mixture of crafts and  
team bonding games.

Next slide: A photo of shouting villagers raising torches and pitchforks.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

Despite what happened in the past,  
The Wiccan Club wants to make a  
difference...

Final slide shows a happy cottage witch baking.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)  
... and help people understand what  
witchcraft is really all about!

Sylvie peeks over the computer screen smiling.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)  
So, what do you think?

Principal Schindler frowns. Ms. Peters smiles warmly.

MS. PETERS  
Well, it's unique.

SYLVIE  
Thank you.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
It's unacceptable.

SYLVIE  
Sorry what?

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
This will attract freaks to our  
school. It's like begging to curse  
this place.

Sylvie's mouth drops open, but she chuckles it off..

SYLVIE  
Well, we wouldn't be doing anything  
bad. Only practicing good spells.  
Some kitchen craft, making good  
luck charms--

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
What good could come from communing  
with dead spirits? This isn't what  
Mycroft stands for.

Sylvie firmly places her hands on the table.

SYLVIE  
It stands for knowledge.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
Not. This. Kind.

Ms. Peters glances between Sylvie and Principal Schindler  
back and forth.

MS. PETERS  
Now now--

Sylvie crosses her arms.

SYLVIE  
I don't get what the big deal is.  
It's *just* a little witchcraft.

Principal Schindler narrows his eyes at Sylvie.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
*Just* a little witchcraft?

MS. PETERS  
(sighs)  
Oh no.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
Listen, young lady. This school and  
this town has been through a lot  
before you were even born. The--

SYLVIE  
--Tragedy of eighty-six. Four  
students dead in the school's  
basement. Parents blamed witchcraft  
and the town's hated esoterica ever  
since.

Brief pause of silence.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
Oh, so you do know.

SYLVIE  
It's one of our favorite mysteries.  
I want the club to change how  
people see us and pay homage to  
those lost souls.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
There's no need for more of that  
here.

SYLVIE  
You approved Norse mythology club.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
They're just studying it. Not doing  
magic that makes people  
uncomfortable.

SYLVIE  
It's traditions.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
It's belongs in your basement, not  
my hallways.

Sylvie looks down at her computer. Tears swell in her eyes  
but they don't fall.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER (CONT'D)  
Nex--

SYLVIE  
To me it's not evil. Maybe we just  
want to study the weirdness we see.  
Cryptids, ghosts, aliens.

Sylvie casually wipes her face, wiping away the tears, and  
lifts her head.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)  
We'll treat it like... studying.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
(ponders audibly)

SYLVIE  
And no practicing witchcraft on  
school grounds.

MS. PETERS  
I think that's a fair compromise.

Principal Schindler stares at Sylvie, narrowing his gaze. He  
grunts and waves his hand dismissively.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
I suppose this could work. But you  
will have to change the name.

Sylvie puts a thumb to her lip as she thinks. She takes a  
long moment, tapping her foot. She snaps her fingers.

SYLVIE  
The Scholar's Club.

Ms. Peters writes the name down on some official club forms.

MS. PETERS  
Alright, so the theme is just  
unconventional history and urban  
legends. Very fun.

PRINCIPAL SCHINDLER  
And no witchcraft.

Sylvie smiles.

SYLVIE

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

Sylvie clenches a good-luck charm behind her back

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Sylvie exits the classroom holding her closed laptop and some papers. She takes a deep breath and exhales.

Ashley and Paul shot up in their seats.

ASHLEY

So, how'd it go?

A brief pause of silence passes, then Sylvie gives a thumbs up. Ashley and Paul do the same.