

**The Amazingly Magical Story of the Different Flavors
of Apple Cider**

Book One

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Chapter One

On an average Tuesday in the small school of St. Joseph's, Marty Woodworde had no idea how interesting his English class was about to get. During his teacher's lecture, two grown men appeared in the middle of the room, following a flash of light.

As his teacher turned around, the men sprayed a dust that stopped about half of his class from moving.

As Marty's friend Jake turned around to look outside their second story window, the cars outside had stopped too.

"Okay," Ally, a smart girl in the middle of the room said, poking at her frozen friend. Ally also had an unsafe mouth that could get her in trouble a lot. "Who are you?"

"We'll explain later," the man to Marty's left said. "For now, know that all your loved ones, and friends are safe."

"Loved ones?" Ally asked. "I just wanted to get my tuna frappe from lunch in ten minutes!!!" she finished pointing at the clocks.

"Ally," the man to Marty's right said.

"How do you-----" she began.

"Shut up."

After a minute of glaring at who was still moving, Marty was freaking out. Out of twenty-eight kids, he had five friends, and only two of them were not frozen.

Jake Masters, one of Mary's friends, had sandy brown hair, and could make a cool fashion style out of anything. On the other hand, Cliff Hangers, Marty's other friend, had dark blonde hair, and almost no color in his eyes. When you first meet Cliff, he has that look in his eye that tells you two things: he likes to fiddle with things, and he probably shouldn't be left alone with a lighter or knives.

As Marty and Jake looked around they saw that Carlos Tettrazzini was unfrozen. Everyone who met him loved Carlos. Carlos had long hair, was the teacher's pet and one of the most popular kids at the school, but Marty could tell that he was hiding something. He didn't know what, it was something.

Ally's three friends, Jennifer, Kate and Sara all copied Ally on whatever she did; lunch, behavior etc.

There was a bully at every school, and St. Joseph's had Josh, and his posse. Josh was about 5 foot 8 and had a long scar from a childhood scissor accident. About eleven people were in the posse, but only two of them remained sturdy. Sebastian always followed Josh at whatever he did.

The last person unfrozen, Nicole, was more or less her own person, and was somewhat mysterious.

The men came to the front of the classroom about seven minutes after making their mysterious entrance.

"You all," the first said, "have a gift. You have been blissified with the possession of the Apple Cider gift."

"The what?" Jennifer asked.

"It," the second man said, "is a power handed down to a particular group of people every century or so. You all possess a certain 'flavor' or more commonly attribute of Apple Cider." The first took over.

"You must train on how to use your power, before being tested on them. One of you will become the master, after all the others lose."

"Awesome," Marty heard someone mutter.

"You expect me to believe that?" Ally asked. "Am I being punked?"

"I think they're serious," Cliff said gazing out at the frozen cars.

"So where do we go?" Carlos said, with his usual good-looking smile.

"Boot Camp on a south Pacific Island," the first said. "Your instructor will meet you there."

With a snap of the second man's fingers, the floor disappeared and every-one fell threw it.

Chapter Two

When everyone was done falling, they landed on a grass field outside an outstanding castle-like place. The island was enormous, it had a large castle, and two small towers off the castle, the enormous field, a forest, beach and torches lit the entire place.

“Welcome!!!” a man’s voice boomed. Ally looked around, with the look that said I know this is fake! “This is Stratsford Island. I am Mr. Stratsford, your counselor of powers. You will go to the two small towers that will serve as your current dorms.” They all looked towards the dorms.

“Tomorrow I and the powers director will meet you by the field. You will find your favorite possessions and clothes in your dorm. Night Night!!!”

On that awkward note, everyone silently walked to his or her cabins. Marty saw the cabin was large enough from the outside to fit a few tents, but on the inside, could fit about two St. Joseph’s school in it.

Marty had looked around the castle. There were many rooms; each had a name written in fancy script:

Carlos, Jake, Josh, Sebastian, etc. Marty was the second to last one in the boy's castle. The last was written in another language, symbols? Latin? French? Marty didn't know. When he walked into the room, it was like the hotel room he had been in two years ago at Lake Placid, New York. It had a small fridge with fruit, a desk with pencils and paper, a T.V., full size bed and his duffel bag and backpack sat on the bed. Marty plowed threw the bag, he saw his iPod touch, laptop, picture of his mom, dad and brother and all the free read books he had wanted for his coming birthday, that would now not be for a while. In the duffel bag was Marty's favorite pair of dark blue jeans that had about six pairs in the bag, all his favorite t-shirts and underpants. After Marty put all his things into drawers and was in his pajamas, he noticed a black envelope in between his pillows. It was all black, with a red seal which read: cryptic = power!!!

When Marty opened the envelope, he saw a few pieces of paper. Two had been ripped out of a journal, and the other from a textbook. Did he dare show the others? Marty had just joined this power race, but he knew some people probably really wanted this power, as in willing to kill, to get the power. Marty had always trusted Jake, but did he dare for this competition? Carlos was hiding something, so he's out. For now.

"Hmm..." Marty said to himself. "Maybe Carlos always knew about his hunt and.... No! Carlos has always wanted power before revealing his secret!!!!" Marty then looked at the journal entries. The first paper read, in sloppy handwriting:

I have unlocked the encryption key, but intend to hide it behind F21 B. before gathering others.

The second read:

Hidden Key in castle Room 1-678. As soon as all is hidden, my plan will fall into place.

There was also a picture of a tree, in the middle of nowhere, on the first picture. It had a metal vault of some kind, that must be the cryptic that the writer had talked about.

Marty was baffled by everything that had happened in just that day, and before going to bed, he looked at the picture of his family.

Chapter Three

Marty woke up when it was still too dark out to look at that room with the odd name. Marty slowly opened the door and peered out. There was a creek behind the door. Someone was there. Marty had to choose what to do, look at the person, or crawl back into bed? Just like Marty remembered his Science teacher say 'That which doesn't kill you, makes you stronger'.

Marty opened the door and saw Carlos, Josh and Sebastian all at the door next to his room.

“What the heck are you doing here?” Josh asked.

“I’m gonna win that power. And you’re not stopping me!!!” Marty said. Marty thought he should use the power for good, to end world hunger, or something. Maybe there was a secret Mr. Stratsford didn’t tell them, it had to do with this cryptic?

“Well I found a journal page that lead to this door!” Carlos exclaimed. “And I intend to find world peace with this apple cider all-powerful elixir.”

Lies, Marty thought.

Marty pushed his way to the door, where the symbols read:

AEDERSTHER

There was a small keyhole, which Carlos, had of course, just picked with a hair clip. The door opened to reveal a tree. *The tree*. It was the tree with the metal bar on it, the cryptic that would unravel the current mystery. Marty raced over, to find that only Carlos and Sebastian followed. He took out the seal. Marty slowly selected P-O-W-E-R.

There was a click, and the front tree end fell forward. There was only one-way out: down. Marty looked back at the two were thought they might get the elixir that day. Josh had walked back to his room, while they were about to plunge into danger. Marty crawled in first and instantly fell down.

After a while, they finally hit the floor. Marty was in an enormous room with only a podium, and a piece of paper on that podium. Marty read the paper, which said:

Hidden in bookcase, sealed off to others.

Marty quietly slipped it into his pocket before the other two landed there.

“Well,” Marty said. “I looked for everything! Let’s find a way back.”

While Marty was looking for an exit some place far away from the podium, he heard, BANG!!!!!!!!!! Marty quickly ran over to see what had happened. There was an explosion of some type! Sebastian wasn’t moving; Carlos had been pushed away, with only a minor injury. There was a large amount of light that had seeped in from the east; it must have been the after effect.

Marty was smart enough to know that the bomb was triggered from the inside. It had smoke marks all around, and blew off some of the metal. When Marty saw this light, he ran towards it, and saw they were on the field border. When Marty looked where he had come from, it looked like he’d just emerged from the forest.

When Marty raced back, he saw Carlos was picking up Sebastian and needed Marty’s help to bring him to the infirmary.

The next day, at the field, there were only ten people at the field. Mr. Stratsford wasn’t there, but one of the men that had picked them up was the coach, Coach.

Today,” he said. “We will tell you what apple cider element you posses. And after careful analysis, two of you are undetermined when it comes to your powers. Those two are brave enough and strong enough for themselves.”

Carlos stepped forward first.

“Carlos Tettrazzini. Your power is electricity apple cider. You can be used in a good way, but there is a side to you that no one knows.”

Josh and Jennifer both came forward at the same time.

“Josh and Jennifer. Josh posses focus. You can make someone focus his or her attention on you with one cider shot. Jennifer, you have the possession of patience. You can make someone slow down their speech, and their actions.”

Kate came forward.

“Kate, you possess the power of water. You can shoot cider onto something to make it water. Use this dangerous power well.”

Nicole and Sarah came up.

“Nicole, you have the power of building things, out of any cider and object. Sara, you can power steel and rock. You can make anything into steel.”

Marty was still afraid to come forward, so he decided to go last, but Marty was also surprised Ally hadn't gone yet.

Next came Jake and Cliff.

“Jake Masters, you can make technology and fix almost anything. Cliff Hangers, you have the ability to possess fire and yield it.”

“Wait!” Ally said. “Then we're...”

“Undetermined,” Coach finished. Marty couldn't believe someone thought he was strong. Brave, yes but not strong.

“Hey!!!” Coach yelled. “Look!” He pointed towards the forest, to which nothing was there, and when they all turned back, Coach was gone. Marty decided to run back to the castle, and look at the paper he had found. Marty had a feeling that whatever was behind that bookcase, had a hint on where to look next. When Marty reached his door, the door was opened, and apparently his room had been cleaned! When Marty went to his underpants drawer to take out that envelope he had stashed there.

Crack!!!

Marty turned his head to look outside. Everyone had come inside, or was stupid to look in the forest for Coach's surprise. There was an enormous crack of lightning that had struck outside.

Undetermined, Marty thought as he fished around for the envelope. Maybe he would find the power source and get the powers, but how to get the other powers when he didn't even know his own?

Crack!!!!

When Marty finally found the box that he had hidden at the back of his drawer, he found that the lock had come off! Marty quickly opened the box to find that the envelope was gone.

It had been stolen.

Chapter Four

No one else knew about the envelope, did they? Marty knew it had said that something was hidden in a bookcase. The journal pages were gone too! Marty took his backpack that was at the end of his full size bed. He packed his iPod, fruit (just in case), laptop, and extra pair of clothes, pad and pencil. His backpack just barely closed, as he decided to make a journey into the castle. As he walked by the other rooms, Marty felt guilty about how much no one else knew.

Marty didn't feel *that* guilty about breaking into the big castle. He saw the doors and just walked through the front door. There were a lot of men walking around the front foyer as Marty walked in. He was looking for either a library, or a room 1-678. Or both. Marty saw two doorways, and decided to go through the one on the right. He was right with that decision. Down the hall there was an enormous library that had an

enormous bookcase that must have cost a fortune. Marty was looking for a loose book, or something, to move the bookcase out of place.

Wait a second, Marty thought. F21 B! It may be a number in the library! Marty saw F17 Y, F18 A over towards the end of the bookcase, was F21 B. In the spot: nothing. Marty was disappointed, until he thought to feel for a button! Marty reached his hand down the long bookcase, and found a button! He quickly pressed it, and the entire shelf flung upward! Marty quickly let go, and saw an abundant darkness.

Chapter Five

Marty took out a flashlight and looked around, seeing nothing. But as he walked deeper and deeper in, he felt something! A book! Marty held it like a Bible, and then decided to look at it later.

Marty raced back to the bookcase, where it was still open! Marty didn't even think to close it; he just went over to an open window and quickly jumped out, landing on the grass. Marty ran to the small castle, that was only a little ways away from the big castle. Marty ran in past the other rooms, and finally made it to his. The book he grabbed seemed to be a journal. Maybe it was the same journal in which those pages were torn out of.

As Marty raced back to his room and past Carlos's, Carlos had known Marty was coming. Carlos always had a back up plan
This time, they were cameras.

Had Carlos set up video cameras in all the rooms? Of course he had. There were pipes leading all through the castles. He saw Marty break into the library, Coach trim his nose hair and Jake Masters dancing to the beat of his iPod. Ew!

Carlos had seen Marty put those papers in his underwear drawer. Did he feel guilty about using the pipes to steal those papers that very same night? A little bit. It wasn't a coincidence that bomb was set off after Carlos went down that tube, either. Sebastian wasn't even important to the competition. His power probably would have been raisin apple cider or something.

But Carlos was raised knowing one day it would be his time for power. His parents never fully told him the entire story about the powers he had (like the time he accidentally sent 20,000 watts through his babysitter when he was eight), but he would fight to the end of the cold, hard race.

For now, Carlos knew he would win and take the others down one at a time, then bust himself and the others out of there.

The only one Carlos might have trusted would be Marty Woodworthe, but was he worth it?

Marty had found the next puzzle piece and broken into the castle without the pipes. Impressive. Plus Marty was an undetermined strong yielder.

Carlos would. Right now.

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of the
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Apple Cider Book 2: Trust**

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