

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph – "In the heart of a colossal mansion, Max wandered casually around the house... 'That camera doesn't take pictures. It takes lives.'"

Strengths:

- Your opening establishes an intriguing mystery hook with the grandfather's warning about the camera, which immediately draws readers into the story.
- The dialogue creates tension effectively, particularly the grandfather's stammering and trembling, which conveys genuine fear.

Unnatural dialogue flow → The transition between Max's casual laughter and his promise feels abrupt. When Max says "I won't touch it. I won't. Come on. Trust me," the repetition and phrasing don't sound like natural speech for someone brushing off a serious warning. The phrase "his energetic voice resounding across the entire mansion" also tells us he's energetic rather than showing it through his words or actions. Consider how people actually speak when they're being dismissive or trying to reassure someone.

Exemplar: *"Max laughed, waving his hand dismissively. 'Relax, Grandpa. I promise I won't go near it.' His voice echoed through the halls."*

#2: Discovery scene – "Max dashed in stealthily, checking every closet and tiny crack... bathed in golden light."

Strengths:

- Your descriptive language here is vivid, particularly "aureate tendrils of sunlight" and the imagery of the camera as a "forgotten artefact."
- The sensory details about cobwebs, dust, and the silver camera create strong atmosphere.

Rushed pacing in crucial moment → The discovery of the camera happens too quickly after building up the search. You write "Just as he was about to lose hope, he spotted it," which doesn't give readers time to feel Max's desperation or the significance of the find. The phrase "Max approached the mahogany table his eyes filled in wonder" is missing punctuation and feels hurried. This moment deserves more attention since it's the turning point of your story. Slow down and show us Max's emotions as he first sees the camera.

Exemplar: *"His shoulders sagged with exhaustion. Then, in the corner behind a stack of mouldering boxes, something gleamed. Max's breath caught. The camera sat waiting, its silver surface dulled by years of neglect."*

#3: Ending – "Max ran out, hoping never to see the camera again... But he was nothing but a photograph."

Strengths:

- The repetition of "He waited for assistance. He begged for help. He cried for support" creates a powerful, desperate rhythm that emphasises Max's helplessness.
- Your circular ending with the repeated phrase "nothing but a photograph" effectively reinforces the horror of his situation.

Unclear cause-and-effect sequence → The camera's transformation of Max happens confusingly. You write "The lense pointed at him, blinking monotonously," but cameras don't blink, and it's unclear whether Max accidentally triggered it or if the camera acted on its own. The phrase "piercing Max like a bullet" uses a simile, but then you describe physical sensations that don't match being shot. The transformation itself—"being compressed into a tiny ball"—doesn't clearly connect to becoming a photograph. Readers need to understand exactly how the camera's magic works to fully appreciate the horror of Max's fate.

Exemplar: *"As he fled, his foot caught on the table leg. The camera clattered to the floor, its lens swinging towards him. A blinding flash erupted. Max felt himself shrinking, flattening, his three-dimensional body compressing onto a two-dimensional plane. Within seconds, he was trapped behind the glossy surface of a photograph."*

■ Your story presents an engaging supernatural premise with genuine suspense, but the middle section needs more development to match the strength of your beginning and ending. The grandfather's disappearance is mentioned but never connected to the camera's power—did he also become a photograph? This would strengthen your story's internal logic. Additionally, Max's decision to test the camera on his cat happens without enough thought process. Why would he use it immediately after finding it, especially after his grandfather's warning? Show us his internal debate or curiosity overcoming his caution. Also, the story would benefit from exploring what Max experiences as a photograph—can he see? Think? Feel time passing? These details would deepen the horror of his predicament. Finally, consider adding a sentence or two showing how Max's personality or past actions might have led to this fate, which would give your story more thematic weight beyond just a cautionary tale.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

The Photograph

In the heart of a colossal mansion, Max wandered casually around the house, trying to think of a daily discovery to make. His mind ~~span~~ [spun] in relentless circles as he attempted to think of something interesting to fill up his spare time. Max remembered his ~~grandpa~~ [grandpa's] voice when he told him a magical secret, whispering, "I own a camera which I ~~now abandoned~~ [have now abandoned]. It was a gift from my dad, who said it was special and ~~otherworldly~~ [otherworldly]. I used it, and it was. But that camera... don't ever touch it. [, " he stammered as he trembled in trepidation.] ~~he stammered as trembled in trepidation.~~ ["That camera doesn't take pictures. It takes lives."

Max laughed it off, slapping his knee carelessly.

"I won't touch it. I won't. Come on. Trust me.[,]" he said ~~nonchantly~~ [nonchalantly], his energetic voice resounding across the entire mansion. ~~It was~~ [They were] the last words he heard.

#1 Ever since his ~~Grandpa~~ [grandpa] mysteriously disappeared, Max's curiosity was sparked. Every day, he would check the house entirely, navigating all the floors and all the ~~room~~ [rooms] – all except the spooky attic. He meticulously checked every hiding spot, his eyes darting across the house as he rummaged through cupboards and closets. But still, he couldn't find it. There was only one place left. It was the attic. Untouched. Forgotten. Abandoned. Right until now.

#2 Max dashed in stealthily, checking every closet and tiny crack. Sweat trickled down his forehead as he desperately searched for the camera. Just as he was about to lose hope, he spotted it. In the midst of the abandoned place, pervaded with cobwebs and dust, the silver camera sat on a wooden table like a forgotten artefact, waiting to be ~~utilised~~ [utilised] again. Aureate tendrils of sunlight shone through the cracked window as the camera's dull lenses glimmered radiantly, bathed in golden light. ~~Max approached the mahogany table his eyes filled in wonder.~~ [Max approached the mahogany table, his eyes filled with wonder.] He lifted it up with care and observed it closely.

He positioned the camera at his cat, hoping for a miracle to happen. He shut his eyes, waiting for a surprise. He snapped a photo and then opened his eyes. Was there a miracle? No, the cat was gone. There was nothing but a black and white photo of his cat, at the exact position ~~that~~ [where] he took the photo ~~in~~ [from].

#3 Max ran out, hoping never to see the camera again. The ~~lense~~ [lens] pointed at him, blinking monotonously, greedy for more. A white flash burst out of the machine, piercing Max like a bullet. Max cried for help, but his voice was now a bare whisper. His legs collapsed like a falling tower, crashing onto the carpet with a thud. He felt like he was under the force of a steamroller, being compressed into a tiny ball. And he was. Max stared into the reflection, realising he was nothing but a photograph.

He waited for assistance. He begged for help. He cried for support. But he was nothing but a photograph.