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Opening extract from

My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat

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Published by

Nosy Crow Ltd

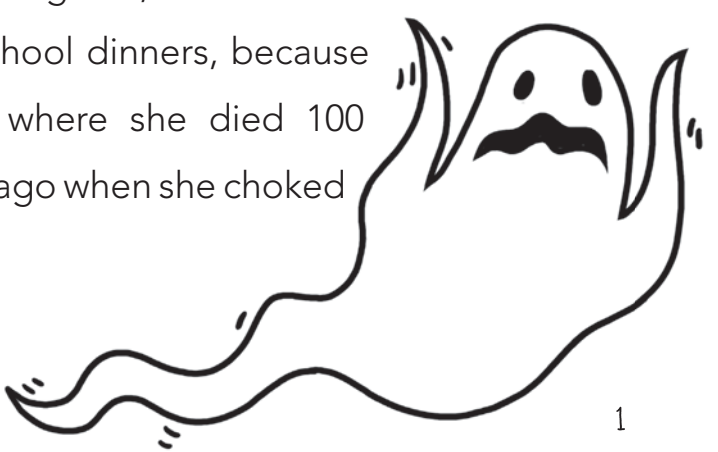
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The Scariest Time EVER

I used to think that ghosts were the scariest things EVER! At our school we even have our own ghost, and she haunts the school dinners, because that's where she died 100 years ago when she choked



to death on the shepherd's pie. And now she haunts the dinner hall and the dinner ladies, but they still make shepherd's pie.



So I suppose she must not be that good at haunting people.

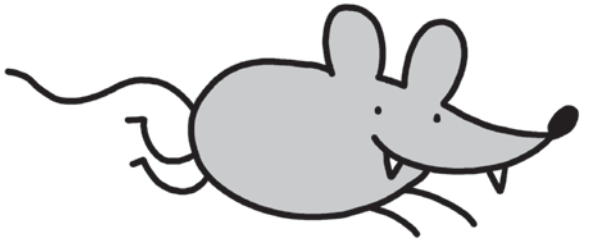


Most people think it's only houses, and castles and schools that can be haunted, but it's not; ANYTHING can be haunted. For



example, you could have a haunted shoe on right now and you wouldn't even know it. And there's not really any way to know for sure until your shoe flies off your foot or something. And then you know.

One time me and Jodi (that's my friend) found out that loads of stuff can be haunted when we were staying in a caravan with Jodi's gran, and Jodi's gran was sleeping, and Jodi was bored so she said, "Caravans are boring," and then all of a sudden Jodi's fold away bed folded up with her inside it! And I had to pull her out and it took ages because Jodi was tangled up in all the sheets and she



kept screaming,

"IT SMELLS IN HERE!
GET ME OUT!"



And then the next morning the toaster burned Jodi's toast. Then when Jodi was having a shower the water kept going hot then cold, then cold then hot, and Jodi kept screaming, and we both knew that all the stuff was happening only to her because the caravan ghost was annoyed at her because she'd said that caravans were boring. And it was obvious because all of the stuff was only happening to Jodi and not me, and not to her gran.

But this isn't the story about the Caravan Ghost, or about the Shepherd's Pie Ghost, or even about any ghosts at all. This is the story

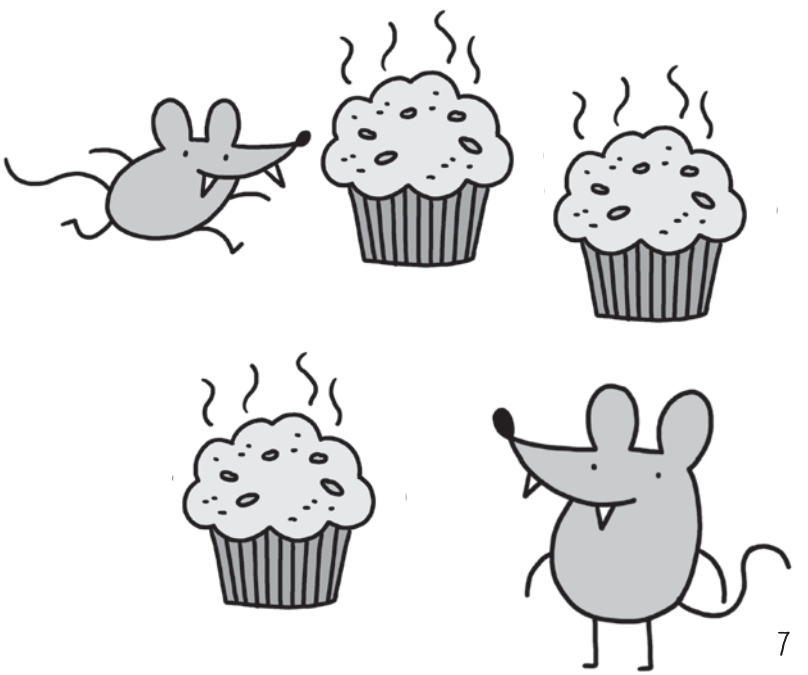
about the time that the weirdest and scariest thing EVER happened. And it happened at our school. And it was even scarier than all the ghosts in the world coming to your house at the same time!

It was the



time ever because it had to do with hundreds of vampire rats, and garlic muffins, and our other friend, Zach, nearly got his nose blood drunk by the new Head Teacher!

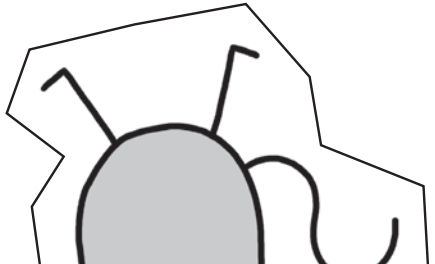
And like Jodi says, when we broke into the Head Teacher's office to get the coffin we could have all been eaten alive!



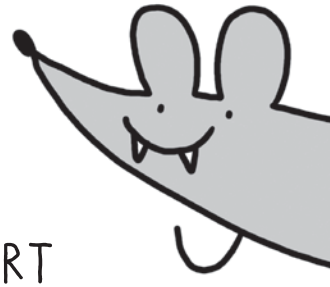


Everything started on Monday when me and my friend Zach, who lives downstairs, got to school.

We tried to meet Jodi and our other friend Maisie outside the classroom before class started, like we always do, but we couldn't



even get up the stairs to where our classroom is because there was a big sign that said,



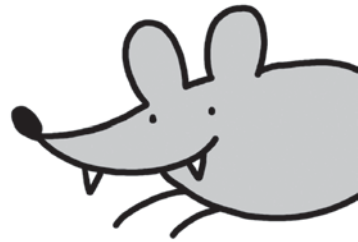
"BEWARE!
DANGER!
NO ENTRY!
ALL PUPILS REPORT
TO ASSEMBLY HALL."

I didn't have a CLUE what was going on, and why our classroom and the stairs were now DANGEROUS, because they had been fine on Friday when we left school. So me and Zach went to the Staff Room and knocked

on the door and asked for Miss Jones (that's our teacher). But when we asked her about all the DANGER signs, she just told us to do what the sign says and to report to the assembly hall, so we did. But I was a bit annoyed because even though Miss Jones is nice and everything, she could have just told us what was going on because she was standing RIGHT THERE.

So anyway, when we got to the hall, everyone was saying loads of stuff like how the school was crumbling to the ground, and about how if the assembly didn't hurry up and start we would probably all be buried





to death. I was starting to get a bit worried, but then I saw Jodi and Maisie standing in the store cupboard at the back of the hall, waving at us to come over.

