Opening extract from

# Fungus the Bogeyman

Written by

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RAYMOND BRIGGS

# Fungus the Bogeyman



***BOGEYDOM***

*is dark, dim, unclear, indefinite, indistinct, abstruse, difficult to understand, unexplained, doubtful, hidden, secluded, remote from public observation, unknown, lowly, humble, dull, dingy, gloomy, murky ...*

*NOW READ ON* ⇨

PENGUIN BOOKS

The Bogey, Subtlest Beast of all the Field
MILTON

BOGEYDOM
Eternal Mists their dropping Curse distill
And drizly vapours all the ditches fill
The Swampy Land's a bog, the Fields are bare
And too much moisture is the grand disease
Here every eye with brackish rheum o'erflows
And a fresh drop still hangs at every nose
DIAPER

PutrefAction is the End
Of all that Nature doth Entend
HERRICK

Scab and Matter Custard
Snot and Bogey Pie,
Dead Dog's Giblets
Green Cat's Eye,
Spread it on Bread,
Spread it on thick
Wash it all down
With a Cup of Cold Sick
CHILDREN'S RHYME
ORAL TRADITION

# Fungus the Bogeyman

The Sun sinks below the hills. The birds are hushed.
**NIGHT** is coming.
"BUT..... far, far below.... in THE TUNNELS
In the wet dripping tunnels of Bogeydom,
(a land where the light is as Darkness)
the Bogeymen are stirring in their beds.
The roofs of the houses are wet,
the walls are slimy and dank.
A damp chill hangs in the air.
Now as the last light fades from THE TUNNELS,
it is the black dawn of a new Bogey day.

Time to get up, Fungus my dreary... it's nearly dark
MMMMM... ZZZZZZ...
Oooh! what a night that was! This bed has almost dried up!
I know, drear, it needs more Slime.
* dreary: Bogish for dear, deary
what a horrible day! Feels quite warm!
I hate this time of year. It's so light.
Ah! Nice wet dressing-gown and Sabots!
I'll change the sheets today, drear. The dirt has almost worn off these.
I know, love, the smell's all gone.

BOGEYMEN
Slugs and headmen's tubs are tolerated and even encouraged in Bogeylands. These creatures produce the silvery slime which Bogeymen find so delicious against their skins.
A well looked after Bogeybed will contain anything up to two hundred slugs and headmen's tubs. Inevitably, some of these will be crushed when the Bogey turns over, but these losses are soon made good as there are always eggs in the corners of the bed.
The slug or snail carpet is never removed but if large pieces of shell irritate the Bogey's sensitive skin, they will be carefully picked out and eaten. The soft jelly remaining is thought by Bogeys to add to the richness and slime-content of the bed.
* Bogeymen's snails

FUNGUS GOES TO THE BARATHRUM *

Ah! Nice cold filthy water! Good head of scum on it this morning.

MUCK

SLIME

* BARATHRUM: Pit, chasm, abyss of Muck

Good coating of slimy Muck will keep out the dryness Up Top.....

Toilet Water

FILTH

PUS

SLAG

OLD MUCK

HUMSTENCH

ROTTEN CONTAMINATION

BOGEY TIMES ARE ROUGH-SURFACED THIS IS TO HOLD THE GUNK AND TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF MOULD

Whence and what art thou execrable shape? *

Ah me! The Silent Touches of Time!

* BOGEYS FREQUENTLY THINK IN QUOTATIONS— USUALLY MISQUOTATIONS

Bogeymen do not need to shave their faces. No bristles grow on Bogeymen's chins, but they do shave their heads. They are very proud of their tiny horns, and these would be hidden if the hair grew long. So Bogeymen shave their haffets,* then polish their skulls with smelly grease.

On the other hand, Bogey ladies are not proud of their horns. These are looked upon as an unbecoming masculine characteristic. Unfortunately, the hair on Bogey ladies' heads is thin and greasy. So one of the great struggles of Bogey lady life is to cultivate a sufficient head of hair to conceal their horns.

* haffets: the sides of the head

FUNGUS RETURNS TO THE BEDROOM AND REMOVES HIS VEST FROM THE WATERROBE *

In Bogey houses there are two or three cold water taps in every room

* WATERROBE: A tank where Bogey clothes are stored overnight.

Ah! Filthy!

Bogeymen are extremely quiet in their movements and in their voices. They never shout and they speak in gentle voices scarcely above a whisper.

Perhaps this is because a lot of their normal aggression is dissipated at work.

At home, they are gentle, shy, and very polite to one another. So.....

BE QUIET WHILE YOU READ THIS BOOK

Bogeymen have a spot in their mouth at the back. This is for their prehensile dorsal fin which sticks through the grubby vest like a kind of rubbery seaweed.

FUNGUS INSPECTS HIS TROUSERS WHICH HAVE BEEN MARINADING OVERNIGHT

At Bogeymen Cultivable Soil on the back of the neck

Mmmm! These really stink!

Bogeymen wear wet underwear next to their skin. Then comes a layer of very damp woolly clothes. On top of this they wear leggy leather jackets and trousers, and blubber Bogey boots.

The waterproof layer is not intended to keep the Bogeyman's own natural secretions in.

The Bogeyman has a horror of drying out and of losing his smell. Particularly, he has a horror of getting dry feet. (The feet are the smelliest part of the Bogeyman.)

Their Bogeyboots are watertight and are filled with a mixture of dirty water and grume * on gloet * after being put on.

* grume: a fluid of a thick viscous consistence

* gloet: a purulent or morbid discharge