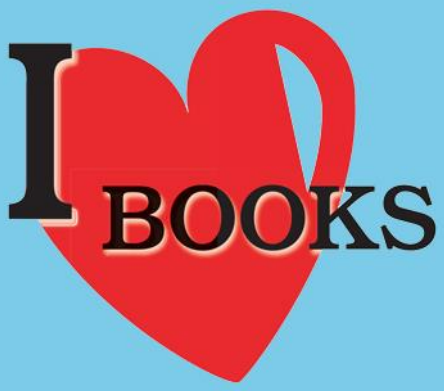


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CHAPTER 1

The **trouble with vampires** is people shouldn't be allowed to dress up as them.



Or talk about them. Or even think about them. Especially at Halloween. Vampires can be really scary at Halloween. So can all the other Halloween scary things. Not that anything scares me or anything.

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It's just that when people like Jack Beechwhistle keep talking about scary things at school ALL THE TIME, including vampires, then after a while, things can get a bit scary-ish.

Nothing scares me most of the time, at least not during the daytime anyway. Vampires don't scare me in the daytime, zombies don't scare me in the daytime or ghosts or werewolves or even the hooley-hooley man. They did scare me a little bit on actual Halloween night, but that was different, because Halloween night is the scariest night in the world, especially if you go trick-or-treating

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for the first time with an actual vampire, who isn't an actual vampire, but you think she is, because she told you she is, but then she tells you she isn't, but by then you've already decided she is, because grown-ups aren't meant to tell fibs or even say the word vampire, especially if you haven't been trick-or- treating before. WHICH ISN'T MY FAULT!

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CHAPTER 2

Did you know *Halloween* is short for '*Hallo, we kn*ow something you don't know'? I didn't either. Jack Beechwhistle told me as soon as I walked into school with Gabby last Monday.

The **trouble with someone telling you that they know something you don't know** is it makes you want to know what it is.



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Even if it's Jack Beechwhistle doing the telling. Trouble is, I'd forgotten it was the beginning of Halloween week.

The **trouble with Halloween week** is I didn't know that there was even such a thing as Halloween week.



I thought there was just Halloween *night*. But Jack said he wasn't waiting until Saturday for Halloween to begin. As far as he was concerned, we should start getting afraid on Monday.

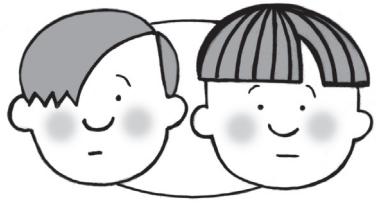
Not just afraid either. *Very* afraid.

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When me and Gabby told him we weren't afraid of anything, Jack said he knew things that were so scary they would make the blood freeze in our veins.

Plus, if we didn't believe him, then we should ask Colin and Harry.

The **trouble with Colin and Harry** is they are Jack Beechwhistle's best friends, so they agree with everything he says. Even if the things Jack says are a bunch of whopping fibs.



Me and Gabby told all three of them