Dirty Bertie

MASCOT!



For Bertie, for all the years of fun and laughs
~ D R and A M



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Dirty Bertie

MASCOT!



DAVID ROBERTS WRITTEN BY ALAN MACDONALD

Stripes

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Disco!

My Joke Book
My Book of Stuff
My Doodle Book
My Burptastic Body Book
Dirty Bertie Sticker and Activity Book
Dirty Bertie Pant-tastic Sticker and Activity Book

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MASCOT!





CHAPTER 1

Mum came into the kitchen carrying the post.

"Oh, Bertie, you've got a letter," she said.

Bertie hardly ever got any post apart from at birthdays and Christmas. He tore open the envelope.

"Wow!" he cried. "They want me to be a mascot!"

"That's nice," said Mum. "You've got jam on your face."

"A mascot for the school team?" asked Dad.

"No, for Rovers," replied Bertie. He read out the letter…

> You're invited to be Rovers' match day mascot for the game against Mudchester City...

"Who's Rovers?" yawned Suzy.

"Pudsley Rovers!" said Dad. "Our local team – they're in Division One!"

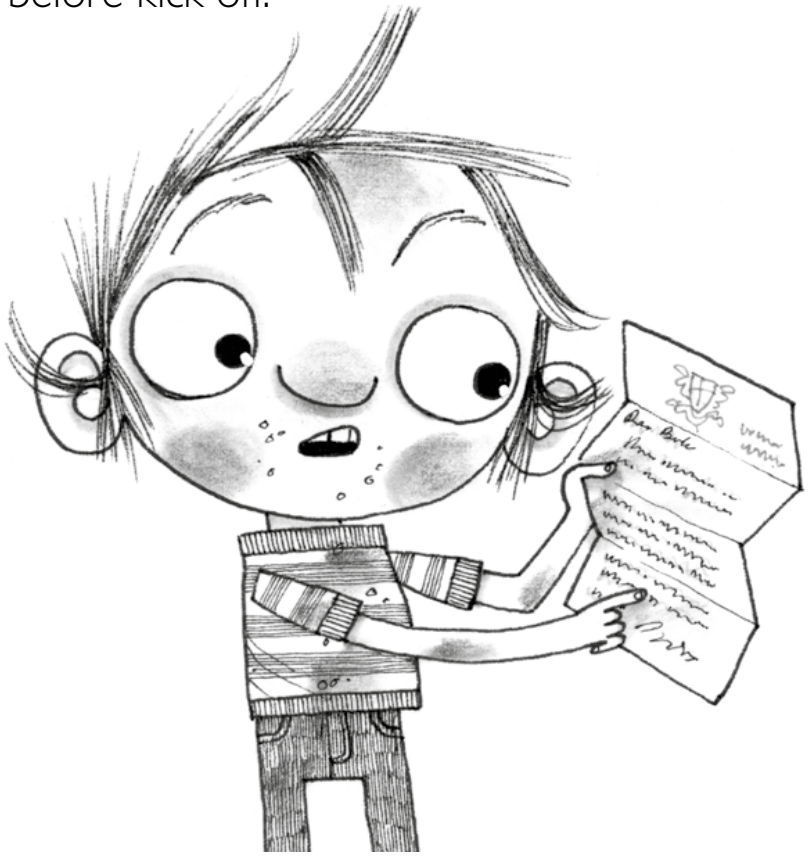
"But why choose Bertie as their mascot?" asked Mum.

Bertie didn't have a clue. Then he remembered – months ago he'd put his name down for something to do with

football. Darren had done it, too – he'd been wildly excited about the chance of being picked.

"I think I entered a competition," said Bertie. "Anyway, what's a mascot?"

"It's a huge honour," explained Dad. "Every team has a lucky mascot. You run out with the players and line up before kick-off."



This didn't sound that exciting to Bertie. He had to line up before school every day.

"Do I kick the ball?" he asked.

"No! You're not *playing*!" said Dad.

"Do I blow the whistle then?"

"That's the referee's job," said Dad.

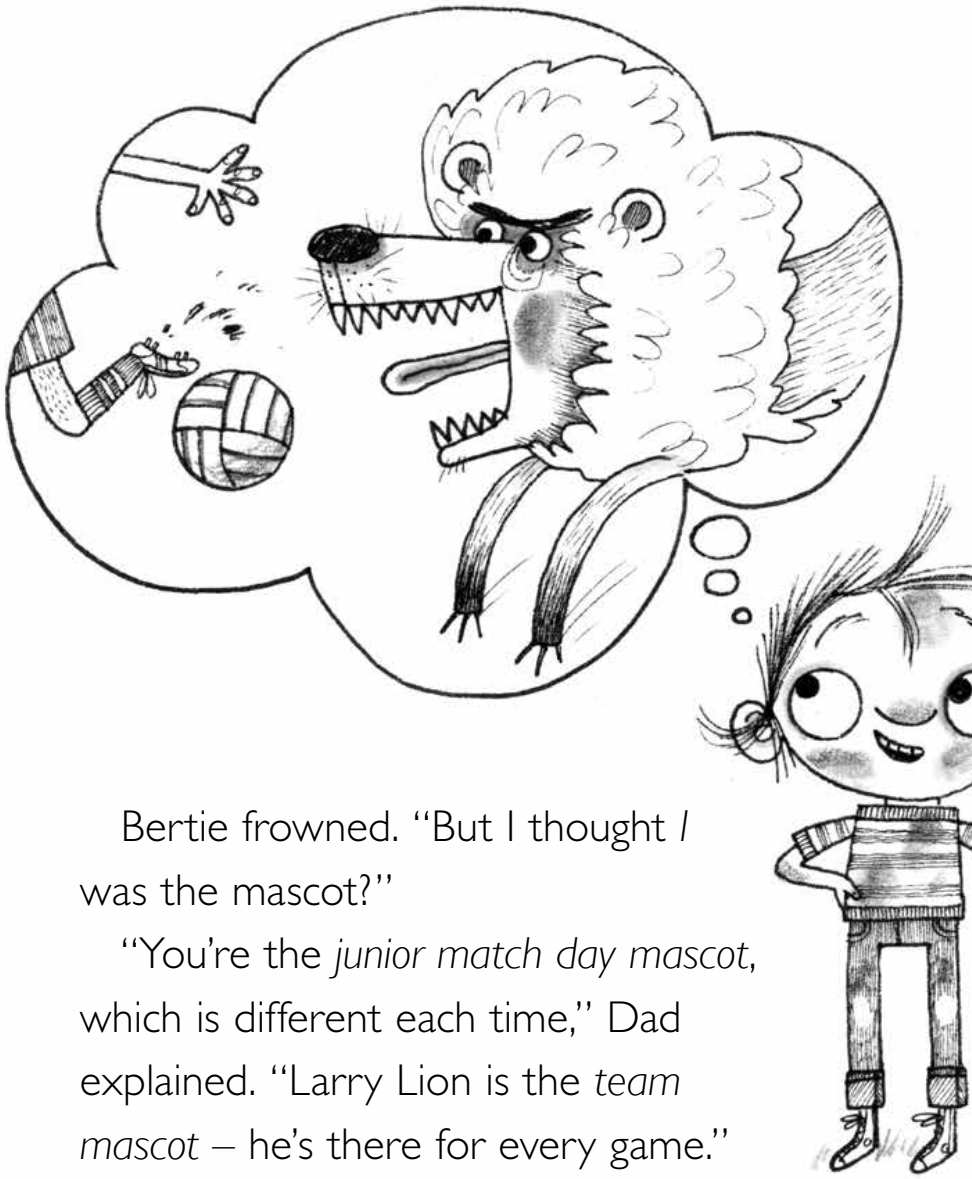
"Well, *what do I do*?" Bertie wanted to know.

"I've told you, you cheer your team on and bring them luck," said Dad. "You'll probably meet Larry Lion."

"There's a *LION*?" said Bertie.

That would certainly make the game more exciting. The players would have to run for their lives!

"It's not a *real* lion," said Dad. "Rovers' team mascot is Larry Lion. It's a man dressed up in a lion costume."



Bertie frowned. "But I thought *I* was the mascot?"

"You're the *junior match day mascot*, which is different each time," Dad explained. "Larry Lion is the *team mascot* – he's there for every game."

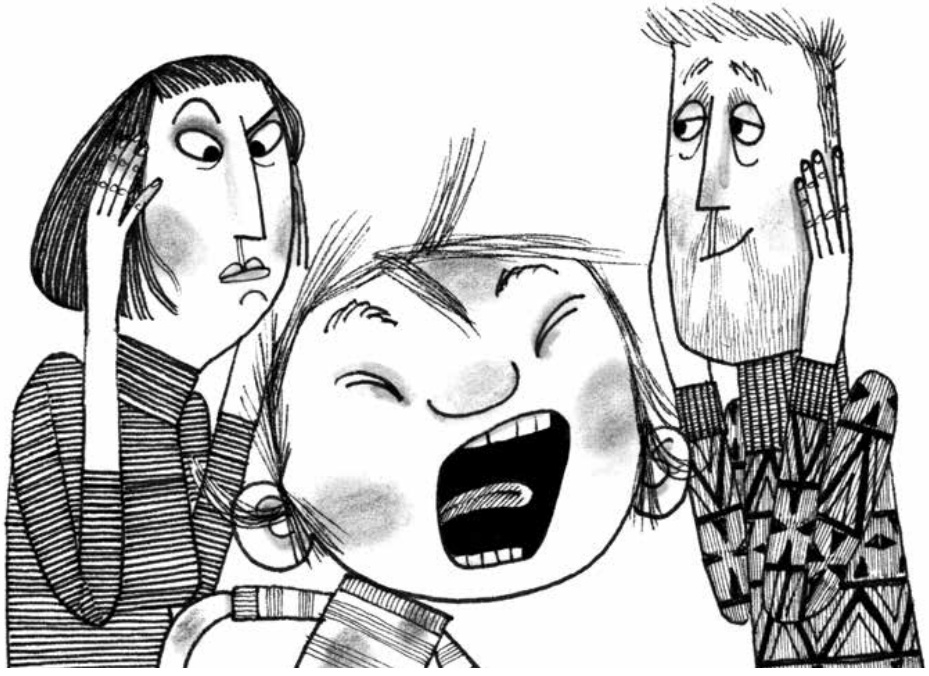
Bertie thought it all sounded a bit complicated.

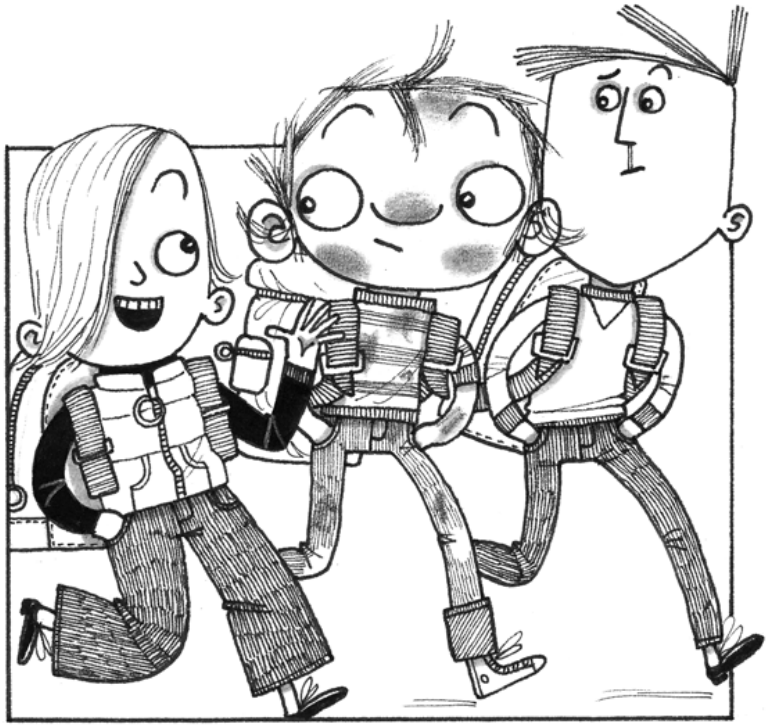
"Why can't I be the lion?" he asked.

"Sorry, I don't think that's what they want," said Dad.

"They might," said Bertie. "The letter doesn't say I *can't* be the lion. Anyway, they haven't heard me roar yet. ROARRRRR!"

Mum and Dad covered their ears. They hoped Bertie wasn't going to get too carried away.





CHAPTER 2

Bertie couldn't wait to tell his friends on Monday morning.

"Guess what," he said, on the way to school. "I'm going to be a mascot!"

"You?" said Eugene. "What for?"

"For Rovers," answered Bertie. "Dad says they're really famous."

"I know who they are," said Darren.

"My dad takes me to all the home games. But who says you're the mascot?"

"I got a letter on Saturday," said Bertie. "It must have been that competition we entered."

Darren's mouth fell open. "That's so unfair! You only entered because I did. You don't know anything about football!"



Dirty Bertie

"I *do*! I played for the school team," argued Bertie.

"Only once, because no one else would go in goal," said Darren.

"Anyway, they picked me," said Bertie. "I've got to lead the teams out for the kick-up."

"The kick-*off*," said Darren.

"But that's not the best bit," Bertie beamed. "I'm going to dress up as a lion!"

"What?" said Eugene.

"You don't mean Larry Lion?" gasped Darren. "They want you to be *Larry Lion*?"

"That's right," said Bertie. "There are two mascots but I'm definitely going to be the lion one."

Darren and Eugene could hardly believe it. Not only was Bertie going

to be a mascot – he got to wear a lion costume.

"Larry Lion is a legend," said Darren. "He gets the crowd laughing and cheering. He can even juggle a football!"

Bertie hoped they didn't want him to juggle. But he was good at making his friends laugh so he'd just have to stick to that.

"Well, I'll be there on Saturday," said Darren.

"Me too," said Eugene. "Just think, thousands of people will be watching you."

"Thousands?" said Bertie.

He had no idea. When the school team played, only two parents came to watch. Being Rovers' mascot was even better than he'd thought – he'd be

famous! People would stop him in the street to ask for his autograph. He might even wear his lion costume to school for a few weeks.

