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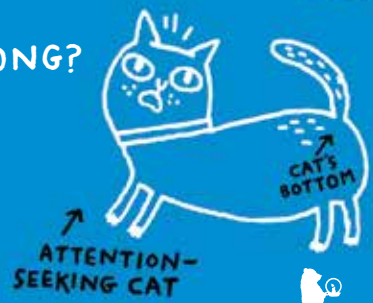

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UNCLE SHAWN AND BILL
AND THE PAJIMMINY CRIMMINY UNUSUAL ADVENTURE
A.L. KENNEDY
ILLUSTRATED BY GEMMA CORRELL

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For VDB

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SECTION ONE

In which everyone on Uncle Shawn's Llama Farm, way up on the sunny side of Scotland, is so happy their toes feel ticklish. It really couldn't be a better day for everyone. We wouldn't expect a dangerous and terrible adventure to start happening all over the place on a day as nice as like this. Or would we...?

Brian Llama had just eaten six pints of blueberry jam and was lying in the warm grass of his meadow feeling a bit full. He was just burping a blueberry-flavoured burp when he heard a slippery kind of voice saying, "We can't have that. Llamas in Scotland. That's definitely Unusual."



Brian raised his head and saw a stranger peering over the hedge. The stranger was wearing a perfectly white suit and perfectly shiny black shoes and had perfectly polished fingernails that glittered in the sun as he wrote something down with a silvery pencil into a tiny, clean notebook.

The strange man stared at Brian as if he was some kind of horrible mistake, like a trampoline covered in squirrels. The man spoke again and wrote down another note. "And a llama

with bright blue nose fur. Unusual. Perhaps the beast has a terrible disease. Everyone knows Unusualness leads to terrible disease."

Now Brian was a very brave llama. He had to be, because he was very scared most of the time. Tall shadows and Tuesdays and long sums and swamp monsters... Lots of things scared Brian Llama. And having a terrible disease! That sounded really frightening. And having blue nose fur – that must be the worst disease ever!

"Oh no." Thought Brian. "What will I do?" And his fur puffed out with fright so that he looked like a chocolate-coloured cloud with hooves and big, scared llama eyes.

This made the stranger smile a smile that was as white as polar bear bottoms and almost too wide for his head.



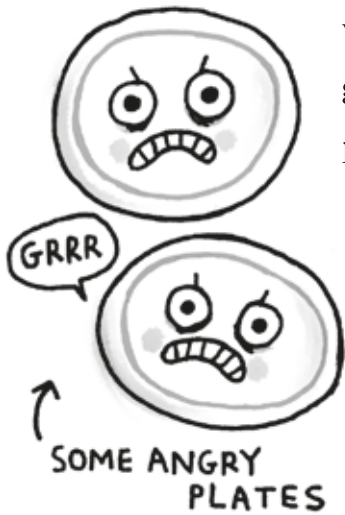
This all made Brian run away about shouting "Waaaaah! EMERGENCIA!" Which is Spanish for Waaaaah! EMERGENCY! Only then he

remembered that his nose fur was blue because it was covered with blueberry jam and so he probably wasn't ill. He just had delicious jam to lick off his nose – and whiskers and chin – as far as his clever llama tongue could reach. (One of the best things about being a llama is how much jam you can still have left on your nose to eat later.) The jam tasted so wonderful that Brian forgot about the shiny stranger.

And later, Carlos Llama was playing snap with Guinevere llama and drinking lemonade. They didn't even notice the shiny stranger peeking at them through the hedge. The stranger scratched his ears and his teeth glimmered while he made notes.

And later than that, Ginalolobrigida Llama was arranging her new selection of mascaras in her llama barn. Knowing that she had more mascara than any other llama on earth always made Ginalolobrigida especially happy. She was putting so much effort into looking dainty and lovely

that she didn't notice the shiny stranger climbing a tree to stare at her and making even more notes while his big white teeth gleamed the way angry plates would.



The stranger had his handkerchief over his head.

In case there were spiders.