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Opening extract from

Winnie's Haunted House

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Front endpapers by Charlie-Marco Jarvis aged 7 (left) and Olivia Preston aged 7 (right)
Back endpapers by Jenny Stowe aged 7 (left) and Bailey Forbes aged 7 (right)

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For Summer, Charlie and Miles—V.T.



For Zoë Tzannes—now every day is a Zoë day!—K.P.

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Valerie Thomas Korky Paul

Winnie's Haunted House



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It was a lovely, warm,
sunny afternoon.
Winnie the Witch thought
she'd have a sleep.

She sat down in her big armchair,
shut her eyes, and in two minutes
she was snoring.

Wilbur, Winnie's big black cat,
thought he'd have a sleep, too.

He curled up on a cushion,
shut his eyes, and in three minutes . . .

a bumblebee flew in
through the window.

BUZZZZZ!

Wilbur liked to chase bumblebees.
He jumped up at the bumblebee,

and missed.

He jumped up again . . . higher . . .

missed the bumblebee . . .

and landed . . .

in the big vase of flowers
on Winnie's table.

CRASH! SMASH! SPLASH!

Winnie woke up.
'Oh no! My best vase!' she said.
'Did you do that, Wilbur?'
But she couldn't see
Wilbur anywhere.

'Where are my glasses?'
asked Winnie.
'Who took them?'

She bent down to look for them.

Wilbur shot out from
under Winnie's chair.
Where could he hide?

Behind the curtains.