This book is dedicated to Mia Mae & Bo Bo - P.W.

Dedicated to Zina, thanks for your support and enthusiasm! – G.E

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RUDY AND THE SECRET SLEEPSKATER

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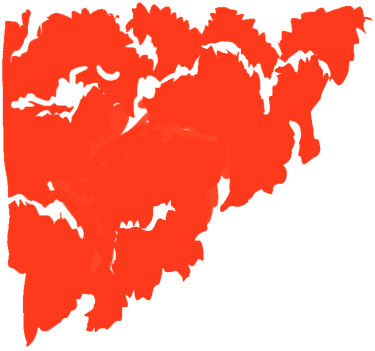


RUDY'S HOUS

GNARLYBARK
FOREST

HIGH CRAG
CASTLE

E
ST RIGAMORE'S
ACADEMY
THE SKATEWAY
MAPLESTONE PARK

RUDY
WEREWOLF

- **Lives with:** Mum and Dad
- **Likes:** skateboarding, pizza, adventure!
- **Dislikes:** baths
- **Personality:** brave, impulsive, mischievous, kind
- **Best skateboard move:** The Daring Double!

FEMI MUMMY

- **Lives with:** Mum, Dad, Nan, and his three sisters—Raziya, Tabia, and Zahara
- **Likes:** skateboarding, biscuits, computer games
- **Dislikes:** pressure
- **Personality:** funny, loyal, slightly shy but the power of the pack brings out his confidence
- **Best skateboard move:** Riding the Vert Ramp!

EDIE GHOST

- **Lives with:** every member of her family tree and a whole host of others. The list is literally endless.
- **Likes:** BMXing, stating the obvious, spending time with her friends
- **Dislikes:** dishonesty
- **Personality:** confident, calm in a crisis, quick-witted
- Best BMX move: The Floating Flip!

CHAPTER ONE

The wind whipped Rudy's spiky hair as he sped down the vert ramp. It was the tallest ramp in the Skateway and got its name because it was vertical. Riding it was like skating down a cliff face!

If Rudy wasn't on his Pitbull-360, he'd be falling!

Down . . .

Down . . .

Down he hurtled in a speeding nose-dive, heading straight for the ground. Then the

curve kicked in, his wheels glided in an arc, and he skidded to a stop.

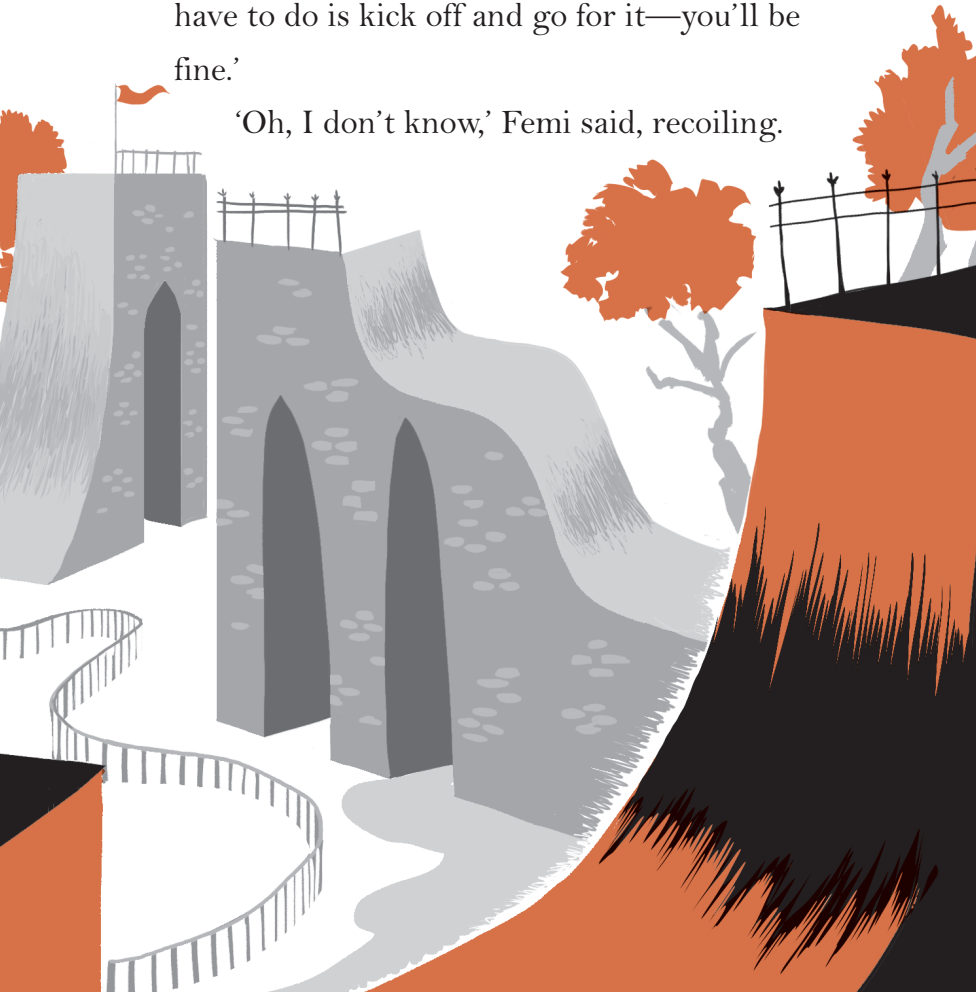
'Whoo-ho!' Edie cheered from the top of the ramp, ringing the bell on her BMX:

TRING! TRING!

Wolfie let out a cub-sized howl and jumped up at Femi. He was up next. But as he eyed the sheer ramp, he became a bandaged bundle of jittery nerves.

'It's OK,' Edie reassured him. 'All you have to do is kick off and go for it—you'll be fine.'

'Oh, I don't know,' Femi said, recoiling.



‘Hey, it’s no big deal. You can do it!’ Rudy said as he joined them. The adrenaline was still rushing through him. ‘Just be confident.’

Femi gulped and started shaking.

‘You’d better make up your mind,’ Edie said, looking at her watch. ‘It’s nearly your dinner time.’

Femi looked like he’d been thrown a lifeline. ‘Yeah, let’s do this another day.’

‘Really?’ Rudy looked disappointed. ‘We could ride it together?’

‘That’d be great,’ Femi said. ‘But it’s OK.’

‘So long as you’re sure.’ Rudy shrugged.

Edie gave him a supportive smile. ‘We’ll all do it next time.’

The setting sun was turning a deep orange over Cobble Cross as they set off to go home.

'Are you both still coming to my sleepover tomorrow?' Femi asked.

'Yeah!' Rudy replied with eager excitement.

'Absolutely!' Edie said. 'Can't wait to see your house.'

'And your room,' Rudy added.

Femi looked relieved. 'Sorry you've had to wait so long. My parents like to plan these things.'

‘That’s OK.’ Rudy smiled, and Edie nodded.

‘It’s gonna be great,’ Femi continued. ‘We can have a midnight feast with my mum’s homemade biscuits. And I’ve got the new Rock Fortress game—it’s amazing!’

‘I am *soooo* looking forward to playing that!’ Edie said.

‘Yeah, it sounds awesome!’ Rudy beamed as Wolfie pawed one of Femi’s loose bandages.

‘Ah!’ Femi sighed as he remembered something. The bandages on his face couldn’t hide his awkwardness. ‘I’m really sorry, but Wolfie can’t come.’

Rudy frowned. ‘Why not? He’s adorable!’

‘It’s not *him*,’ Femi said, wringing his hands. ‘It’s my parents—they don’t like pets.’

Rudy looked crestfallen. He hated the idea of Wolfie missing out on all the fun.

'Hey, it's their house,' Edie said with a shrug. 'They make the rules, Rudy.'

Rudy's parents hadn't liked the idea of having a pet wolf cub either, but he'd miss having Wolfie curled up on his bed at the sleepover. Rudy thought for a minute. 'Yeah, OK,' he agreed reluctantly.

By the time Rudy sat down to dinner, his disappointment was forgotten, and he was almost too excited about tomorrow night's sleepover to eat!

Femi was always fun to be around, so his house was bound to be awesome!

As exciting thoughts buzzed around Rudy's head, his mum and dad brought out dinner. It was a delicious roast chicken with piles of mashed potato—Rudy's favourite!

He dived straight in.

‘Hey! Where are your manners, young man?’ Dad scolded.

‘Sorry,’ Rudy replied and waited for his parents to sit down.

As soon as dinner was cleared away, Rudy checked the clock. He still had ages before bedtime.

‘Mum, can I do some gaming?’ he asked.

‘Not after dinner. You know the rules,’ came the reply he half-expected.

‘Besides, you should get an early night,’ Dad said. ‘You don’t want to be tired at your sleepover.’

Rudy sighed. Dad was probably right. He hugged his parents goodnight and went upstairs.

As Rudy climbed into his comfy bed, Wolfie looked subdued. ‘You’ll be OK. I’ll only be gone one night,’ he reassured the cub. ‘And Femi’s house isn’t that far away. If you miss me, just send out a howl.’

Wolfie jumped up and rolled over, inviting Rudy to tickle his belly. Rudy immediately felt forgiven. They snuggled together while Rudy read until he was sleepy.