This book is dedicated to Beatrix and Genevieve - P.W.

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

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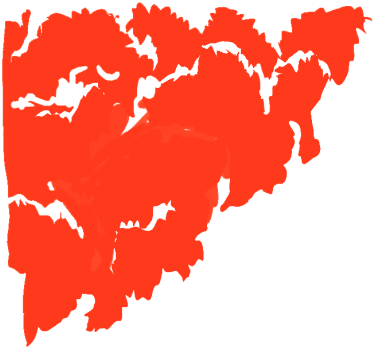
RUDY AND THE SKATE STARS



WRITTEN BY
PAUL WESTMORELAND

PICTURES BY
GEORGE ERMOS

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS





RUDY'S HOUS



GNARLY BARK
FOREST







HIGH CRAG
CASTLE




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

JOIN THE

SKATE STARS

WITH

JESSIE HOWLER



JUDGING YOUR SKATEBOARD STUNTS
BMX TRICKS & GROUP DISPLAYS

+ MUSIC, MEDALS & MORE

SATURDAY @ 2PM

THE SKATEWAY COBBLE CROSS

CHAPTER ONE



Rudy and his friends couldn't believe their eyes. All three of them stared, open-mouthed, as they read the poster they'd found taped to the side of the half-pipe in the Skateway.

'This is amazing,' Rudy said as his wolf cub Wolfie jumped up and yapped excitedly. His thoughts raced away to competition day, his head filling with stunts, flips, and showing off his new move: a rail-slide along the edge of the half-pipe! He'd just about found his balance with the move, but Rudy hadn't perfected it yet. If he could, Rudy felt sure it was good enough to win a medal!



As Rudy imagined standing on the podium with a medal round his neck, surrounded by the cheering crowd, Femi said, 'I can't believe Skate Stars is really coming to Cobble Cross.'

Edie's eyes widened. 'And *the* Jessie Howler is judging it!' she exclaimed. 'She's like, the first and maybe only person who's ever skated a triple loop corkscrew in a full-pipe tunnel!'

'Yeah! It's insane!' Rudy said. 'If we enter, she'll see what we can do!'

'Wowzers!' Femi gulped and his eyeballs shook in their sockets. 'And check that out!'

The others peered round the ramp to see what Femi had spotted.

'No way!' Edie gasped. 'They've built that especially for the competition.'

Rudy couldn't believe it either. Just beyond the half-pipe stood a brand-new bowl park. It was a maze of curved ramps with rounded dips and troughs. It looked like an empty swimming pool shaped like a giant paint splatter!

'That's a pro track!' Femi gulped nervously.

'Absolutely!' Rudy's excitement was bursting like fireworks.

'You know, we should enter the group event,' Edie suggested. 'You guys can skate and I've got my BMX. If we put all our tricks together on the half-pipe, it'll make a great routine.'

'Yeah!' Femi nodded.

'OK,' Rudy said. 'Skate Stars is next weekend, so we've got the whole of the holidays to make our routine perfect. We'll be unbeatable!'

Rudy's friends nodded eagerly, and they started going up and down the half-pipe as Wolfie ran around happily, trying to keep up. Each time they reached the top of the ramp Rudy and Femi did kick-flips, while Edie jumped in the air and flipped her BMX

around in a tail-whip.

After a while, Rudy's wheels scraped to a stop. 'Guys, this is fun,' he said, 'but Jessie Howler loves new tricks. If we want to win this we'll have to do more than a few jumps and kick-flips.'

'What do you have in mind?' Edie asked as she hit her brakes and stopped beside Femi.

A twinkle appeared in Rudy's eye and with a flip of his board he set off.

After a couple of runs, he was carving a line up and down the half-pipe.

'Come on, Rudy, you can do it,' Edie called out as she and Femi watched.

Rudy's confidence swelled, and with one more push he leaned on his board and raced towards the outside edge of the ramp. Rudy's friends thought he'd misjudged it and was about to wipe out, but Rudy knew what he was doing.

Rudy reached the top and let his front wheels go over the edge. He found his balance, then turned his shoulders towards the other side of the half-pipe and his board began a teetering rail-slide along the edge of the ramp!



KKKKKRRRRRK!