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Opening extract from

Mammoth Academy

Written by

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CHAPTER 1
THE NEW TERM



Oscar was a Woolly Mammoth, and so was Arabella. They lived a long time ago in the Ice Age.

They had been having a terrific time on holiday, romping in snowfields, uncovering secret mountain paths, rooting out mountain berries and playing Ice Frisbee, but now it was time to go back to the Mammoth Academy for the new term.

THIS LETTER ARRIVED BY MAMMOTH MAIL

Dear Student,

The new term is about to start tomorrow.

All First Years must bring with them:

1. A pair of safety goggles, safety gloves and a safety apron.

2. A pair of safety scissors.

3. A big pot of glue.

4. A big bottle of ink.

5. Fourteen lined exercise books ...

... and lots of brightly coloured material and other things to be used to prepare for the Founder's Fiesta.

The headmistress's speech will begin at 9am.
Lessons will follow straight away.

Signed

Professor Snape

Both Oscar and Arabella were looking forward to going back to the Academy, mainly because the new term would end in the fabulous Founder's Fiesta!

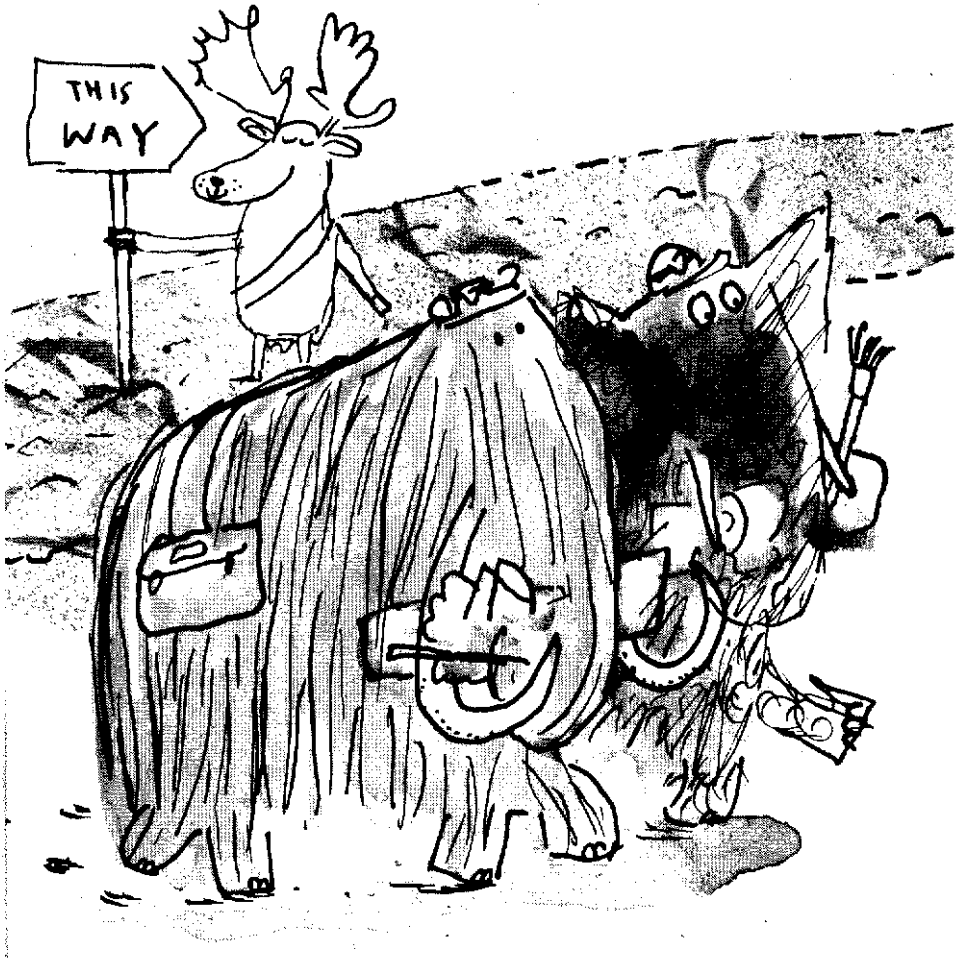
The Founder's Fiesta (along with Stinky Day *see note) is one of THE most exciting days in the Mammoth year. The whole Academy gets decorated with bunting and balloons. Cook bakes enormous Founder's Fiesta puddings. There are no lessons and no uniforms, but there is plenty of feasting and dancing until very late at night.

EVERYONE was excited about it!

NOTE:
Stinky Day is the one day of the year when all the pupils are allowed to get as smelly and messy as possible. Fox normally wins the contest.



On the first day back, as Oscar and Arabella walked across the icy wastes, the sun was shining and they were both in high spirits. They greeted the friendly Megaloceros as he helped them across the glacier.



Along the way lots of their school friends joined them and there was plenty of friendly banter.

'Hey, Fox, haven't seen you in ages!
How are you doing?'
'I'm cool! How are you?'



'Look there's Giant Sloth and Prunella.' Prunella was Arabella's best friend at the Academy. She was also the smallest pupil in the whole school.

Arabella liked Prunella because she was fashionable and wore pretty bows. Prunella liked Arabella because she was clever and strong and would look after her in the busy school corridors.





'Hi there, Prunella!'

'Hi there, Arabella!'

Everyone was carrying big bundles of paper, books, ink and lots of things to be used to prepare for the Founder's Fiesta.

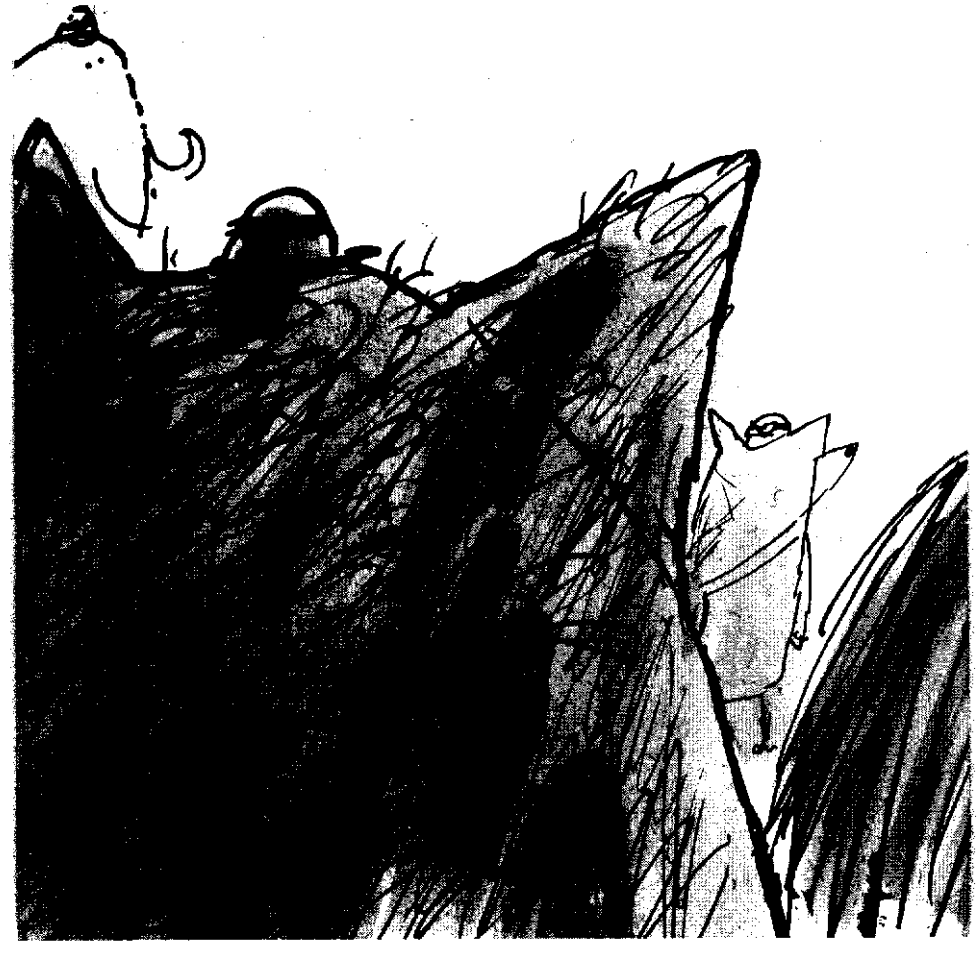
As more and more First Years joined the procession the level of excitement rose.

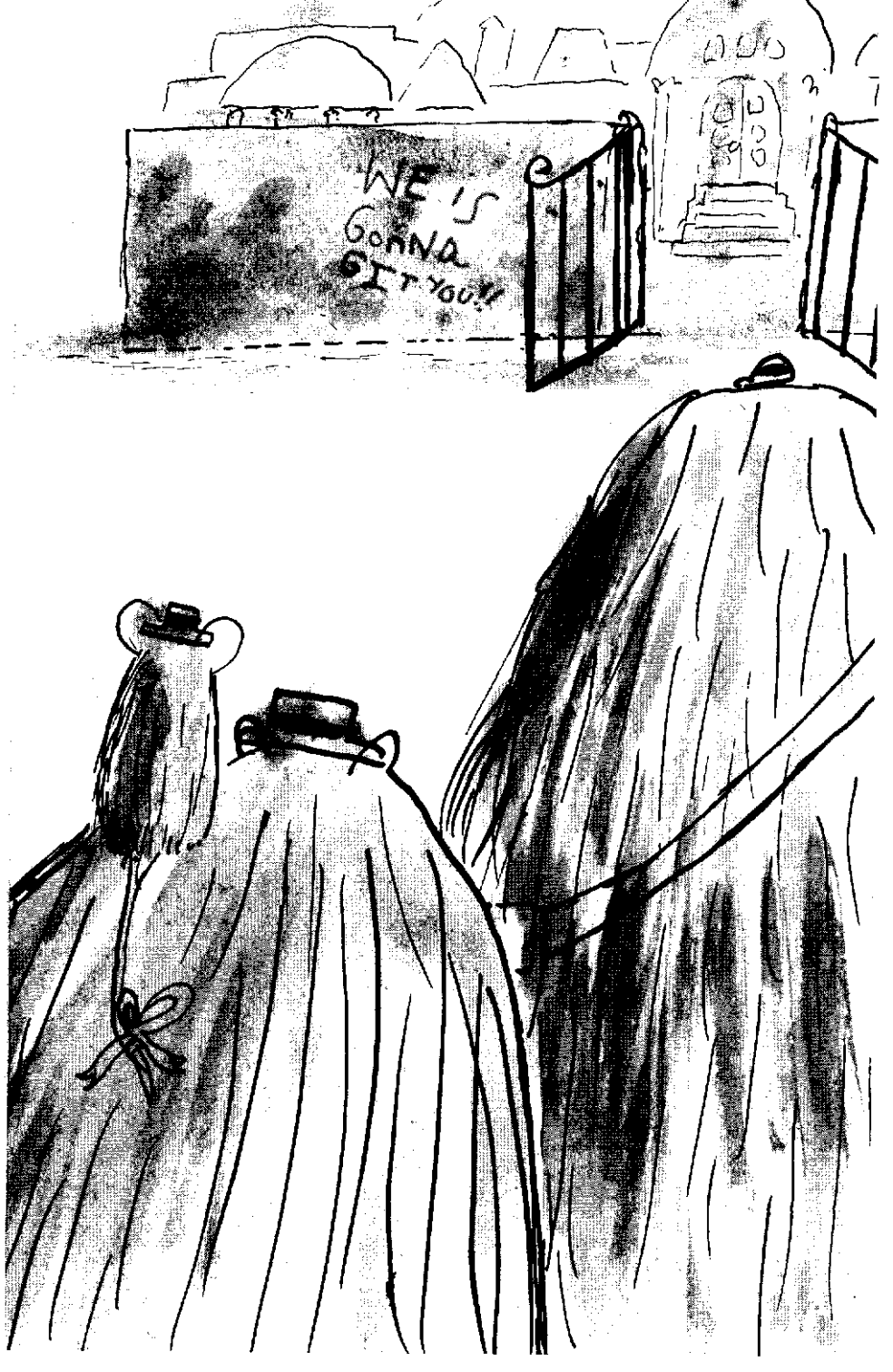
'Wooo!'

'Yeah!'

Until they arrived at the Mammoth Academy gates.

And suddenly everyone went very quiet . . .




WE'S
GONNA
GIT YOU!!

